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Memorials of Shrewsbury:

BEING A

CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN

AND ITS ENVIRONS,

Ecclesiastical and Public Buildings, Charitable Institutions,

PICTURESQUE SCENERY, &c.

ADAPTED AS

A GENERAL GUIDE

FOR THE

INFORMATION OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS,

BY

HENRY PIDGEON,

(TREASURER OF THE CORPORATION OF SHREWSBURY.)

SECOND EDITION ENLARGED.

ILLUSTRATED WITH FORTY-TWO ENGRAVINGS AND AN ELEGANT MAP.

"FLOREAT SALOPIA."

PRINTED BY J. H. LEAKE, MARKET SQUARE, SHREWSBURY.

1851

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TO THE

REV. WILLIAM GORSUCH ROWLAND, M. A.

MINISTER AND OFFICIAL OF

THE ROYAL PECULIAR OF ST. MARY'S, SHREWSBURY,

AND PREBENDARY OF LICHFIELD,

AS A HUMBLE BUT SINCERE TESTIMONY OF RESPECT,

FOR HIS ZEALOUS AND MUNIFICENT EXERTIONS

IN RESTORING AND HEIGHTENING

THE BEAUTIES AND ARCHITECTURE OF SEVERAL OF THE

CHURCHES IN THIS TOWN,

AND FOR HIS

UNWEARIED ATTENTION TO MANY OF OUR

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS,

The Memorials of Shrewsbury

ARE VERY RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT,

HENRY PIDGEON.

Fletcher — 12 Aug. 1942

PREFACE.

A little Manual adapted to assist the enquiring stranger in his perambulation around Shrewsbury having been long required, an ardent attachment to his native place, and compliance with the wishes of many friends whose opinions demand respect, are circumstances that have induced the present writer to undertake the task, in which he has been assisted by the possession of several volumes of SALOPIAN ANNALS, or memoranda of all the principal events that have occurred in the town for several past years, the collection whereof has afforded him a pleasing recreation in those scraps of time snatched from active professional avocations—periods wherein every one has his favourite pursuit, and in which any individual may, by prudently employing them for his own pleasure, not unfrequently render himself useful to others.

It may be further stated that the present design is purely patriotic; and whilst no expence has been spared in the numerous embellishments, candour and truth (combined with accuracy and conciseness) have been carefully observed throughout a more extensive field of local information and graphical illustration than has heretofore been cultivated in any previous work adapted as a Guide through the Metropolis of Shropshire,—many subjects being now classified and brought under general notice for the first time.

The Author would therefore hope that the MEMORIALS OF SHREWSBURY will be found to afford a comprehensive and faithful illustration to the stranger of whatever may be important in this ancient and beautifully situated town, as well as useful and deserving the confidence of his fellow-townsmen in particular, to whom he offers them (to use the words of our great lexicographer) "in the spirit of a man that has endeavoured well," and with the utmost sincerity for the best interests of his native place.

H. P.

High Street

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE Author cannot permit another edition of the MEMORIALS OF SHREWSBURY to pass from the press without recording his cordial acknowledgments for the kind welcome with which the former one was received, as likewise, for the many kind expressions with which he has been favoured by Strangers and others with regard to its utility and adaption to the purposes for which it was designed.

In the present publication much additional matter has been introduced, and by the extension of the portion relating to the early state of the town, a consecutive narrative of historical information is given from the remotest period, which, it is hoped may be useful to the general reader, as forming a constituent part of our national story.

At the same time, the main design of the book has been constantly kept in view, *viz*:—of pointing out those objects of interest which have an especial claim on the attention of the casual and inquiring VISITOR, in his perambulations around the town.

The Author again ventures to solicit a favourable reception of his services by VISITORS and RESIDENTS, in this humble, but well meant endeavour to illustrate within a moderate compass, THE HISTORICAL AND PRESENT DESCRIPTION OF SHREWSBURY.

H. P.

High Street, 1851.

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Parishes.	*Houses.*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
St. Chad	1717	3592	4333	7925
St. Mary	1266	3082	3329	6311
St. Julian	825	1927	2141	4068
St. Alkmund	342	779	898	1677
Holy Cross and St. Giles	456	858	1096	1944
Meole Brace	247	527	643	1170

Total Population.....23,095

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"This is an excellent Guide to the town of Shrewsbury, written as a Guide to an ancient town should be, in an antiquarian spirit, with, at the same time a vigilant and patriotic regard to every modern improvement. It furnishes a survey of the old Border Metropolis, which the stranger may profitably make his useful and intelligent companion, disclosing to him the history and remarkable features of the various public buildings and every other object of interest; introduced by a concise sketch of historical annals of the town."—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

"SHREWSBURY, the scene of Henry the Fifth's valour, and one of the towns so loyal to Charles the First during the Great Rebellion, has much of interest for the student of English history and the antiquary. The work of Mr. Pidgeon appears to afford a good Guide to its chief attractions, and will be useful to those who wish to visit it."—*British Magazine.*

"Few places in England are more interesting than Shrewsbury; and we are glad to see so good a Guide to its lions, as the present volume.—These Memorials are cleverly and numerously embellished; and altogether the capital of Shropshire has reason to be proud of its native citizen, to whose literary taste, diligence, and patriotism, it owes so useful and becoming a volume."—*Literary Gazette.*

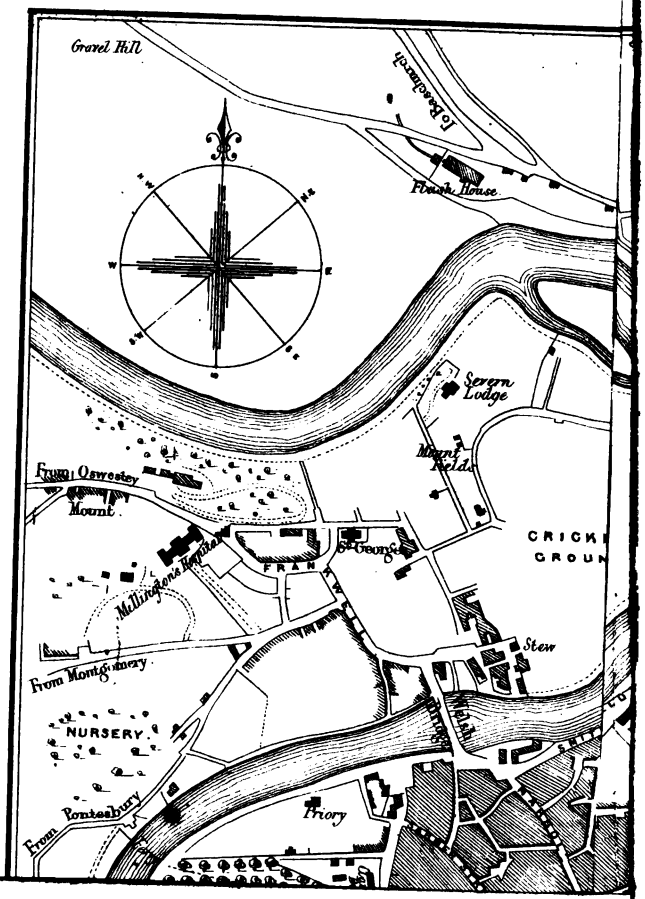
"Pleasantly done—richer in suggestion than the old 'Pictures' and 'Guides.'"—*Athenæum.*

"As a Guide to visitors and residents of the ancient town of Shrewsbury, this little book will be invaluable, as it gives a clear and succinct account of the chief objects of attraction whether ancient or modern. The architectural beauties of the town are pointed out with the eye of a connoisseur; the ancient castle, the numerous churches, the markets, charitable institutions, and public walks, the amusements, and trades, all receive due attention. The many interesting points in the suburbs are also glanced at. For the size of the book, we have seldom met one more full of valuable information and historical lore."—*Manchester Advertiser.*

"Shrewsbury is an interesting and important old town, and Mr. Pidgeon has treated his subject in such a manner as to render it acceptable to all classes of readers. We are much pleased with both letterpress and illustrations; the latter are numerous and highly creditable to the respective artists. We may bestow especial praise on the chapter dedicated to the ecclesiastical buildings, which will be alike interesting to the architect and general reader. Of course no "true Salopian" will lack this volume on his shelf; and even those who are not residents in this 'favoured county' may find much to interest them in the Memorials of Shrewsbury.—*The Analyst, Quarterly Journal.*

"Mr. Pidgeon a native, and also an inhabitant of Shrewsbury, has given in the work before us a graphic description of its most prominent objects of curiosity, which are further illustrated by many engravings: among these, 'The Battlefield' where Jack Falstaff fought Harry Hotspur 'an hour by Shrewsbury clock,' has not been overlooked. The volume will be of great value to casual visitors as a Guide to what is most worthy of attention, and is highly creditable to the industry and talent of its author."—*Liverpool Standard.*

"This little volume has the advantage of being neither too short nor too long, and moreover, bears evidence of having considerable care bestowed upon it. General readers will find in it much valuable and attractive information that cannot fail to instruct and amuse. It is at once concise and comprehensive, and often imparts to local description a national interest. It excels in the description of the architectural edifices for the variety and antiquity of which this town is so justly celebrated."—*Provincial Paper.*


Gravel Hill
To Broadwater
Flower House
Severn Lodge
Mount Fields
From Oswestry
Mount
St. George's
CRICKE
GROUN
Millingtons Hospital
Stew
From Montgomery
NURSERY
From Pontesbury
Priory

Memorials of Shrewsbury.

THE Town of SHREWSBURY stands nearly in the centre of the County of which it is the capital; it is situated on two gentle declivities, and is formed by the River Severn into a peninsula, somewhat in the shape of a horse-shoe, having an isthmus not more than three hundred yards across.

The Britons gave the place the appellation of *Pengwern*, the Saxons *Scrobbes-byrig;* both are synonymous, importing a fenced eminence covered with shrubs. The ancient Welsh called it, and do so to this day, *Ammwythig*, signifying "The Delight." The Normans *Sciropesberie*, and subsequently *Salopsberie* and *Schrosbury*, from whence is formed its present name Shrewsbury and Salop.

A variety of opinions have prevailed as to who made choice of the commanding situation aud natural retreat which the town affords, as well as to the period of its foundation.

It has been considered to be of far prior date than the ancient Uriconium (the present Wroxeter), from the circumstances that it was the custom of the Romans to throw up stations, and to make roads parallel or adjacent to British camps. One thing however is certain, that no vestige of that imperial people has been discovered within its precinct.

We know that the ancient Roman station of Uriconium was held for some time by the Britons after its desertion by their former masters;—the Britons (being in their turn compelled to vacate the said station, by the superior force of the Saxons) are supposed to have built, or occupied Shrewsbury some time in the sixth century. The thickets which crowned the summit, and the alders and willows which at that time hid the base of the peninsular Knoll, affording an immediate place of refuge to the fugitives from their unsparing invaders,—and where, after they had become somewhat settled they built themselves a City, which (as before stated) was called *Pengwern*, the head (or hill) of alders.

The Britons did not however long remain unmolested in their new possessions, for they were subjected to frequent annoyances from the inroads of the Saxons who followed them hither, devastating as at Wroxeter, their habitations by fire. This occurred in the time of *Cynddylan*, whereby they were compelled to seek another retreat in the mountain fastnesses of Mathrafal. After this we find Pengwern the residence of a king of Powis,—the capital of his Kingdom, and ranking among the twenty-eight cities of Briton. Subsequently Brochwel Yscithrog, or the tusked King of Powis, —whom the Saxon Chronicle calls the Earlderman of the Britons, retained possession of a great part of Shropshire, and fixed his habitation in Pengwern, about 617, the site of his palace being where the ruins of old St. Chad's Church now stand.

Eliseg, his sixth descendant, recovered his portion of the "inheritance of Powis" from the Saxons, by the sword, during the reign of the Mercian King Offa, which continued from 755 to 794, but which being unable to maintain, he subsequently surrendered by treaty to the Saxons, whereby Pengwern lost the dignity of a metropolis.

We unfortunately possess no information respecting the state of our ancient town under its native princes; the arts of civil life, in which the Britons had improved, under their Roman masters, were probably lost during the almost constant warfare of three centuries. This we may reasonably conclude was the case, from the appellation given to it by the new possessors, *Scrobbes-byrig*, signifying a bury, or fenced eminence, but overgrown with shrubs.

Nothing is related of the town during the period it formed a portion of the Mercian territory, though the place doubtless experienced the many revolutions of that kingdom.

Under the Saxon monarchs the town must have been of importance to possess the privilege of a mint, which it retained for a considerable period, many coins of which are extant, from King Athelstan to Harold 2nd.

In the reign of Alfred, Scrobbes-byrig was numbered among the principal cities of Britain. Ethelred the Unready, having been pursued by the Danes, kept his Christmas here in 1006, and in the next year resigned the government of Mercia unto his son-in-law Ædric, who made this town his occasional residence.

Ædric Sylvaticus, or the Forester, in conjunction with Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, laid siege to the town in 1068; but William the First sending two Earls to the relief of the Castle, the rebels after burning a portion of the town withdrew: the king however revenged the insult with much slaughter in the following year. When the Saxons were removed from all places of trust by the Norman Conqueror, who rewarded his principal adherents with portions of their lands, he conferred upon his kinsman, Roger de Montgomery, in 1070, the earldom of Shrewsbury, after abolishing the title of Earl of Mercia, to which he added a grant of the town and ample domains in the county, and made him Governor there.

Henry I. on the defections of Robert-de Belesme, third Earl of Shrewsbury, marched with his troops and laid siege to this town, in 1102. The Norman Earl was residing here in his castle, and the monarch gave him to understand that nothing was left him but to surrender, upon which, bearing the keys of the gates, he threw himself at the victor's feet and sued for mercy, which Henry did not think it prudent to withold, and ensured him safe conduct to the sea coast, though he confiscated all his honours and lands, together

with those of his brothers, Roger and Arnulph, and thus the Earldom of Shrewsbury became vested in the Crown, Richard de Belesme being appointed the King's Deputy with the title of Steward, took up his residence in the Castle.

The inhabitants under Henry experienced a favourable change, for he granted them privileges which were afterwards recognized, and although no Charters of this time remain we have ample evidence that such existed, from the fact of their being frequently referred to and subsequently confirmed. In 1126 he gave the County of Salopesbury to his second wife Adeliza, of Louvain, who appointed as her Viscount, or Sheriff, William Fitz Alan, ancestor of the Earls of Arundel.

When on the death of Henry, in the year 1135, Stephen's right to the Crown of England was disputed, William Fitz Alan defended Shrewsbury for the Empress Maud. Stephen laid siege to the Castle in July, 1138, which was taken after a resolute struggle of four weeks. Fitz Alan, the Governor, having made his escape privately, Arnulf de Hesding, his uncle, who had exceedingly offended the king by his insolence and obstinacy during the seige, was, with 93 others immediately hung, this act of severity caused a speedy surrender of the whole county to Stephen. The Castle continued in the hands of this Monarch until 1152, when the young Duke of Normandy, son of the Empress Maud, asserted his claim to the throne, and succeeded in taking many Castles from the usurper, among which was that of Shrewsbury. Fitz Alan joined Henry, and on the the death of Stephen in the following year, this loyal Baron retiring from his exile, was re-instated in all his vast possessions in Shropshire and elsewhere.

In 1158, Henry visited this town during his progress through the Kingdom for the administration of justice. Shrewsbury being a border town, it was, from its proximity to a hostile Country, of much importance to our early Monarchs, and consequently became the scene of many a negotiation and contest with the Welsh, whose frequent incursions were most harrassing.

King John had scarcely occupied the throne two months before the Burgesses of Shrewsbury obtained from him two Charters, one of which was a recital of the free customs of Henry I., and confirmation of the Charter of Henry II, while the other introduced several new privileges of importance to the welfare of the town. In the 6th year of his reign he granted them a third beneficial Charter.

The Princes of North Wales having been long turbulent neighbours to the Kings of England, John thought it expedient to hold a Council in this town for the purpose of making a treaty with Llewelyn the Great, the then Prince of Wales, to whom in 1202 he gave in marriage Joanna his natural daughter, he also further assisted him in his designs upon Powis, by insiduously inviting during the session of the Council the Prince of that Country to Shrewsbury in 1207, where he and his Council were residing. On arriving here the Prince of Powis was placed in confinement until his consent was obtained to certain articles of accommodation. After his release the Prince united his forces with Fulke Fitz Warin, Lord of Whittington, and defeated the King with loss, obliging him to retire to Shrewsbury in disgrace.

Llewelyn still restless and desiring the independence of his country, re-commenced hostilities against his father-in-

law, but the King marching into Wales was victorious, and the Welsh gave twenty hostages, children of the principal families, as a pledge of future subjection. At this time John's incessant disputes with the Pope again encouraged the Welsh, who committed many depredations throughout the country. This conduct so enraged the King that he commanded all the Welsh children delivered to him, to be hanged, and ordered Robert de Vipont, Governor of Shrewsbury Castle, to execute the Prince of South Wales, Rees ap Maelgwn, a youth seventeen years of age. John's subserviency to the See of Rome having excited the general disgust of his subjects, Llewelyn took advantage of the prejudice thus raised and marched with a numerous body of stout hearted Cambrians to Shrewsbury, and after burning several houses succeeded in 1215, without much assistance in gaining possession of British Pengwern the Metropolis of Powis, just four centuries and a half after it had been wrested from his ancestors.

The town was, however, not long in subjection to its new masters, for King John himself marched with a powerful army into these parts to chastise the insolence of his son-in-law. On the 9th of August, 1216, he sacked and burnt the town of Oswestry, and on the 14th of the same month made himself master of Shrewsbury.

In the 2nd year of Henry III. Llewelyn found it necessary to enter into a treaty with the King, his brother-in-law, who honoured this town with a visit in 1220, and again in 1222. In 1246 there was a friendly interview here between the King and Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, his sister the princess, and his nephew their son; and it was probably at this meeting that the King granted to his sister certain Manors to hold during pleasure. Notwithstanding this,

the indomitable spirit of the Welsh Prince excited his countrymen to repeated acts of agression, which led to a truce being proposed, and the appointment of Commissioners of high rank to settle all disputes before the Pope's Legate, this took place in St. Mary's Church, on the 7th December, 1232, the King and the Prince being then in the town, who bound themselves to the decision.

In 1234, "Richard Earl Marescall" being told that Henry intended to seize him on his way to Parliament, fled to Llewelyn, and the Prince and Earl appeared before Shrewsbury with a powerful army, and after burning part of the suburb of Frankwell, returned to the mountains laden with the spoil of the inhabitants, many of whom they had barbarously murdered. The King was at Gloucester during this outrage, and unable to muster forces sufficient to repel the agressors.

The death of Llewelyn April 11th, 1240, was the signal for fresh disputes in another form. His eldest son took up arms to defend his succession, whilst Prince David, by his father's second wife Joan, (the King's Sister,) to secure protection did homage to Henry for the Principality. The King it seems was not hearty in the cause of his nephew, and the latter having unadvisedly seized and imprisoned his rival brother, Griffith, was called to an account, and summoned to Shrewsbury. In consequence of this command being disregarded, Henry again visited this town in 1241, where he held a Council on the 2nd of August, and remained a fortnight, and was joined by many of the Welsh Nobles, when David relinquished all lands seized from the late King in the war between him and his barons.

In 1256, Henry III, probably wishing to secure the attachment of the Burgesses of Shrewsbury, granted them

two new Charters on the same day, and to this he may have been moved by the real state of the border lands, which had been to a great extent deserts by the frequent incursions of the Welsh who fought resolutely to regain their freedom.

About this period Llewelyn, son of the great Llewelyn, having succeded in deposing his brother, made a bold attempt to recover the dominions of his ancestors. This was facilitated by the situation of Henry who was at that time at war with Leicester and the rebellious barons and involved in frequent conflicts with the Welsh Prince and the English Marchers. The King deemed it requisite to interfere, and on the 1st of August, 1260, summoned his army to meet him at Shrewsbury, September 8th, where great activity was evinced in fortifying the town. Llewelyn, however, averted the storm, by sueing for a truce until Midsummer, 1262. In the mean time the King availed himself of the opportunity by visiting his dominions, on the Continent, and only three days before the expiration of the treaty, Llewelyn with the rebel Simon de Montfort made preparations for violating the peace between the two Countries; this occasioned Prince Edward to be recalled, who in April, 1263, assembled his forces in this town, whence he proceded in search of the enemy, and soon compelled Llewelyn to take refuge in the fastnesses of Snowden.

From this pursuit the Prince hastened to London to protect the crown against the machinations of Leicester and his followers, who had infected a great portion of the people with their disloyalty. In the same year Llewelyn, having persuaded Griffith, Prince of Powis to desert from the King's cause, again assailed the Marches; his ally Montfort actively co-operating with him, in the spring of

1264, took by some unknown means possessions of Bridgnorth, and Shrewsbury, which seem to have offered very little resistance. To these misfortunes succeded still greater, for the fatal battle of Lewes was followed by the convention which placed the King and Prince Edward in the power of Leicester. The loyalty, however, of the Shropshire Barons remained unshaken during the gloom which overhung the Monarchy, and many of them took up arms to rescue their captive King and Prince; but the death of Montfort at the Battle of Evesham frustrated all the schemes of the rebels and saved Shrewsbury from the danger of being subjected to a foreign yoke.

As soon as the King was liberated he granted on the 22nd of September, 1265, to the Burgesses an exemption from all contribution of murage (a general toll for the repairs of the walls of towns) throughout the kingdom, as a return for their fidelity to the Royal cause, and to indemnify them for the losses they had sustained. By the same Charter he further granted that no Merchant of Wools should purchase that commodity anywhere within the County of Salop but in the Market towns thereof; in which Shrewsbury would be supposed to take the preference.

It was requisite in 1267 for Henry to march against Llewelyn, and the King and Prince Edward were accordingly in this town from the 4th to the 27th of September; when a treaty of peace was effected, under the auspices of cardinal Ottoboni, between "Henry King of England and the noble man, (so now-styled), Llewelyn Son of Griffin," on the latter paying a large sum of money, with a surrender of certain Castles, and making due allegiance in the presence of the King and his Sons, he was restored to the title of Prince of Wales.

To be prepared for changes in the circumstance of so unsettled a neighbour, Prince Edward made Shrewsbury his chief position for observation and defence; on the 23rd of September, 1269, at the Prince's suggestion, his father notifies to "the Bailiffs and good Men of Salop," that he had committed their Castle and town to his dear son Edward, commanding them to be obedient to him, or such Deputy as he should appoint, which grant continued in force until Henry's death.

It was during this reign that a writ was issued directing the election of officers of the Shrewsbury Mint. From the roll of assays made by the keepers of the dies at this place, it appears that the Mint was in great activity, as there were two forges, and 231 assays, and pennies were coined to the amount of £7060.

Edward 1st was in Palestine when his father died, and being apprehensive of the dangerous pretensions of the Prince of Wales, as well as desirous to unite the island under one head, he determined if possible to subjugate the haughty spirit of Llewelyn, for that Prince having been commanded to take the oaths of fealty and neglected to do so, though he had often promised to comply with the King's command; the case was rendered more urgent by the frequent complaints of divers trespasses committed in the Marches of Wales. At this time Prince David, brother of Llewelyn, with Griffith-de-la-Pole, and his son Sir Owen, being detected in a conspiracy against the Prince of Wales, were obliged to take refuge in Shrewsbury. The fugitive Prince was well received by Edward 1st, who conferred upon him ample estates, and a wealthy marriage, to detach him from his brother's interest.

Llewelyn being again invited to attend the King in London by a Parliament then sitting, refused, and was consequently condemned by that body as a rebel. This was the prelude to military operations, and in order to intimidate Llewelyn, King Edward transferred some of the supreme Courts of judicature to Shrewsbury, where all the Sheriffs came in Michaelmas term, 1277, to render their accounts. The King was himself present here with his army and departed from hence into Wales, where his exertions were so vigorous, that before the end of the year he obliged the Prince to submit, and engaged him to perform homage personally. The Prince again failed to keep his word, which induced the King to re-visit the Marches; but Llewelyn appeased him by his respectful demeanour. At length the Welsh Prince having become reconciled to his brother David, and weary of English domination appeared again in arms about the close of Lent 1282. Edward promptly assembled his army and proceeded to Shrewsbury in the month of June, removing also his courts hither, where they continued for several months. Llewelyn fell in battle near Builth, on the 12th of December, and his head was sent to London, and fixed on the Tower, encircled with a crown of ivy.

David, the last of the Ancient Britons having become a prisoner in the hands of Edward, in 1283 was sent in chains to Shrewsbury, where a Parliament was assembled to meet September 30th, being "*the first national convention in which the Commons had any share by legal authority*," and the earliest lawful trace of a mixed assembly of Lords and Commons. Twenty cities and towns, Shrewsbury being one, were directed to send two deputies, and every high sheriff to send two knights. Besides 110 Earls and Barons.

It is supposed they met in the chapter house, or refectory of the abbey, where David was tried as a traitor, and cruelly condemned to a new mode of execution, viz.—to be dragged at a horse's tail through the streets of Shrewsbury, and to be afterwards hung and cut down while alive, his heart and bowels burnt before his face, his body quartered, and his head sent to London to accompany that of his brother Llewelyn.

The town, being strongly fenced, was visited by Edward in 1322, where he was honourably received by the inhabitants, who went out to meet him clad in armour; he continued here for several days, and issued a general amnesty to all his subjects, Baldesmere excepted, upon the faith of which many of the nobility had assembled to witness a grand tournament.

In 1387, the town was honoured with a visit from Richard the second, during a progrees in the month of August to the Marches of Wales, with a view of cultivating an interest in that quarter. He was attended at Shrewsbury by the Chief Justice, and certain other of the Judges, whom he consulted on the validity of those proceedings in the late Parliament, which had so greatly encroached upon the Royal authority. Having succeded in putting down all opposition on account of the murder of his uncle of Gloucester, and the execution of the Earl of Arundel, Richard, January 29th, 1397-8, adjourned his parliament from Westminster to Shrewsbury, which was denominated the "GREAT PARLIAMENT," from the important state affairs which were transacted in it. The cross of Canterbury was brought here, upon which the lords spiritual and temporal were sworn to observe and keep all the statutes which were then made.

Chester was on this occasion made a principality, and several oppressive laws enacted, which afterwards formed some of the accusations against Richard by Henry of Bolinbroke, when that Prince usurped the Monarchy.

The revolution which placed Henry of Lancaster on the throne seems to have met with the approbation of the inhabitants; for when the Duke ostensibly proceeded into Wales to please Richard, he was nobly received here.

After the death of Richard, Owen Glendower asserted his pretensions to the two ancient principalities of North Wales and Powis, and pursued his claim with undaunted courage, added to a strong resentment for the contumely with which his demands, public and private, had been treated by the successor of the unfortunate Richard, to whom he had been a firm and unshaken friend. On the 20th of September, 1400, he boldly caused himself to be proclaimed Prince of Wales, and infested the Marches with a strong body of Welshmen, who maintained a warfare against the governing authorities.

In the summer of 1403, the Earl of Northumberland, his Son the valiant Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, and Thomas Percy, Earl of Worcester, tutor and guardian to Henry of Monmouth, (the King's Son) became dissatisfied from various causes with the proceedings of their Sovereign; they entered into a secret confederacy for deposing Henry, and placing Mortimer on the throne; a defection which it appears was unknown to the King when he left London for the purpose of uniting his forces to those of his "beloved and loyal" Percies, in an expedition against the Scots, and that "well ended," of returning to quell the rebels in

Wales, on the borders of which Prince Henry then was with a large body of men. On arriving at Burton-upon-Trent, 16th July, the King first heard of the disloyal proceedings of his former adherents, Northumberland, Worcester, and Hotspur, the latter of whom he supposed had been waiting his arrival at Berwick-upon-Tweed. Henry in consequence of this information therefore immediately issued a proclamation to the Sheriffs to raise their Counties and assist him to put down the rebellion which had just been made known to him, and proceeded the following day to Lichfield. From thence he hastened with all speed to join his son, and to secure this important town, where he arrived on the 20th instant, just in time to hoist his banner on the walls, before the arrival of Percy and his advanced guard, who at the head of a numerous army, augmented by the Scottish forces under Earl Douglas had set forward towards the Welsh marches under the pretence of protecting the country from the ravages of Owen Glendower, whilst his real object was to form a conjunction with that chieftain. He proceeded through Lancashire and Cheshire, asserting that Richard was still alive. At Stafford, Percy met his uncle the Earl of Worcester, and thence hastily directed his forces towards Shrewsbury, intending to make it the point of rendezvous for himself and his Welsh allies. He was, however, anticipated by the activity of the King, who on his entrance, in order to save the Castle from attack, caused several of the Houses in the Castleforegate to be burned, before Hotspur could reach it. Hotspur finding (no doubt much to his surprise) the town pre-occupied by the King, with an army ready to meet him, withdrew northwestward towards Berwick and the Bull-field near the Severn, intending to place his army in communication with that of

Glendower whom he expected would shortly come by forced marches with a numerous re-inforcement, but being possibly ignorant of that Chieftain's position he was doomed to experience a fatal disappointment.

Early on the morning of Saturday, the 21st of July, 1403, the King with a decision and promptitude befitting the occasion, proceeded with his army to meet the rebels, his march being so arranged as to obstruct any retreat of Hotspur's forces, should such be attempted. The two armies met three miles from Shrewsbury, at a place then called "Heyteley field," when after some fruitless negotiations had passed, an engagement became inevitable.

The attack began by a tremendous volley of arrows from Hotspur's ranks, which caused much havoc among the Kings troops, who fell, says Walsingham, "as the leaves fall on the ground after a frosty night at the approach of winter, there was no room for the arrows to reach the ground, every one struck a mortal man." The King's bow-men were also equally efficient in their duty. In the meanwhile the air resounded with the battle cry of the House of Percy "*Esperance*," and shouts of the "*King and St. George*." The Scots under Earl Douglas made a sudden and vigorous onset on the King's Soldiers, and threw them into confusion, killing their commander the young Earl of Stafford, but the king speedily advancing with his main body relieved the foremost line, and though thrice unhorsed, he returned to the charge with increased energy. His standard bearer, Sir Walter Blount, was slain at his side, and the standard of England thrown down, yet would not the King leave the position he had taken until forced away by the Earl of Dunbar. In short, Henry is recorded to have fought with

an ardour worthy of the Crown he was defending, and his presence in every part of the engagement seemed to infuse fresh vigour into his troops. The Prince of Wales valiantly assisted his father, and displayed the first traits of that personal courage and high daring, which afterwards so conspicuously distinguished the Hero of Agincourt.

Hotspur, and Douglas it appears, were disposed to fight neither with small nor great, but with the King only;—while it is said, "they mowed down his ranks," making "alleys, as in a field of corn," in their impetuous attempts to reach him. At length, Hotspur fell by an unknown hand; as the cry, raised by the Royalists, "Henry Percy is dead," the rebel army fell into confusion and immediate flight. Thus, after a severe and sanguinary contest, fate decided that the efforts of Henry against this powerful faction should be successful,—a faction, which, having contributed to place him on the seat of government, now sought to dethrone him. In fact it was one of the most decisive battles recorded in the early history of England.

The number of the slain on either side is differently stated, but it is considered, that at least 2000 nobles, knights, and gentlemen, and 6000 private soldiers, fell in the engagement. The armies on both sides amounted, it is supposed to 40,000, the King's was superior in numbers, but Hotspur's far more abounded in "gentle blood," and the greater part of the gentry of Cheshire fell on "the sad and sorry field of Shrewsbury." Most of the dead bodies were buried on the spot, over whom Henry, in gratitude for his victory, subsequently erected a college of secular canons to pray for the souls of the slain. The more distinguished were interred in the Dominican and Augustine Friaries of the town.

The gallant Hotspur was discovered among the slain covered with wounds, and sent to Shrewsbury, where the King satiated his revenge by ignominiously dismembering the lifeless remains, the head and quarters were exhibited over the gate at York, and afterwards delivered to his Wife for interment. The Earl of Worcester, Sir Richard Vernon, and Lord Douglas were taken prisoners, the two former were beheaded on the 23rd, and the Earl's head sent to be placed on London bridge. Douglas was pardoned.

Glendower is said by Leland to have promised to meet Percy at this struggle, though by others he is represented to have marched to Oswestry with 12,000 men. Gough states a tradition that, he had even advanced as far as Shelton, and ascended a lofty oak (the trunk of which is still remaining), from whence he might ascertain the event of the battle. That Owen did agree to co-operate with the Percies there can be no doubt, but that he undertook to meet them on a given day is not so certain, and since he has been unsparingly censured by his countrymen for a breach of faith, it may be here mentioned, that from "Original Letters," preserved in the British Museum, and lately published, it appears, at the time of the Battle of Shrewsbury, this rebel Chieftan, with his forces, was in a remote division of South Wales, and engaged in reducing such Castles as held out against him :—hence, it is probable the tidings of Hotspur's overthrow reached him without his ever having heard (at least in time) that Percy required his assistance ; for had he joined him, the result from their united powers, might have terminated very differently for the King and his valiant son.

Glendower nothing daunted by the defeat of his confederates, carried his ravages in the following year, even to the

gates of the Welsh Bridge, destroying much of the suburb of Frankwell, as well as several townships in the vicinity.

In 1451-2 the Duke of York in his attempts upon the crown came to his estates on the Marches of Wales, and wrote to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury from his Castle at Ludlow, requesting them to supply him with a body of men, this being done, the Duke marched them to Black-heath, near London. In 1457 he visited this town with his son the earl of March, (afterwards Edward IV.) and large presents were made to him and his adherents. A continued intercourse seems subsequently to have been maintained between this great Duke and the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, who evinced such attachment to him, as to cause his statue to be placed over the gateway of the Welsh bridge, and which, on the demolition of that structure, was removed to the end of the market-house, where it still remains.

The Duke being killed at the battle of Wakefield, Dec. 30th, 1460, his son Edward who was then keeping his Christmas at Shrewsbury, raised with all speed an army of 23,000 men, and proceeded from thence to the battle of Mortimer's Cross, the result of which led to his establishment on the throne; and on the final expulsion of his rival, he chose this town for the occasional residence of his Queen, where she gave birth to her second and third sons, Richard and George Plantagenet. He also incorporated "the fraternity of Drapers of Salop," whereby the opulence of the place was much increased during the three following centuries. Richard III. had scarcely begun his government when a dangerous rebellion broke out against him, headed by the Duke of Buckingham. This nobleman was, probably, often called by his affairs to Shrewsbury, possessing large

estates in the vicinity, as representative of the family of Corbet of Caus, and being also appointed by Edward V. constable of all castles, and steward of all lordships, manors and lands belonging to the crown in Shropshire. The King having notice of his movements raised an army against him, and a great reward being offered for his apprehension, he fled in disguise to the house of one of his dependants at Lacon near Wem, the place of his retreat was made known to Thomas Mytton, Esq. Sheriff of the County. The Duke was hurried to Shrewsbury, and from thence taken to Salisbury, where he was beheaded, Nov. 2nd, 1483, and the Sheriff, a resident of Shrewsbury, rewarded by a grant of the Castle and Lordship of Caus. King Richard was so well satisfied with the conduct of the burgesses on this occasion, that he remitted for ever, 20 marks of their fee-farm yearly.

The Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry the Seventh, on landing at Milford Haven, in August, 1485, determined to march for Shrewsbury. On his arriving at the Welsh Bridge he found the place in a posture of defence, the gates closed against him, and the bailiffs within ready to give their answer. On his demanding admittance as their rightful king, a curious MS. records that the chief bailiff, Thomas Mytton, replied—"He knew no king but Richard, whose bailiffs he and his fellow were, upon which he swore that the earl should not enter there but over his belly." On this, Richmond returned and passed the night at Forton Heath, where his army was encamped. He, however, succeeded the next morning; and Mr. Mytton, in order to conform with the letter of his oath, laid himself down on the ground, and permitted the earl to step over him, whereupon the portcullis of the bridge was drawn up,

and the earl with his retinue were admitted, to the general joy of the inhabitants, notwithstanding it went *against the stomach* of the "stoute wyse gentilman, Maister Myttoon."

Richmond was first proclaimed king in Shrewsbury, where he raised soldiers, but left the bailiffs to pay them. He lodged in a house on the Wyle Cop (three doors below what is now the Lion Inn), from whence he marched to Bosworth Field, where the engagement took place which deprived Richard III. of his throne and his life.

Henry VII. visited the town in 1488, where he stayed several days; in 1490 he came again with his Queen, and son (Prince Arthur), and kept the feast of St. George, in the Collegiate Church of St. Chad. Also about this time, in imitation of the policy of Edward IV., he sent his eldest son to reside in the Marches of Wales, and to hold his Court at Ludlow Castle, from whence, accompanied by the eminent persons of his Council, he frequently visited Shrewsbury. On one occasion he appears to have been present at a play in the "Quarrell," this was a kind of Religious Mystery or Miracle play, the only dramatic exhibition then known in this country. In 1495 the King with his mother the countess of Richmond, his queen and the rest of his family, in a progress towards Ludlow on a visit to the Prince, sojourned in Shrewsbury, and lodged in the Abbey. The Bailiffs of the town who met the King for the purpose of shewing him the Castle, &c. joined him on this occasion at the Abbey bridge. The Prince had preceded his father, and was here waiting to give him welcome. The Royal Family and Court were sumptuously entertained by the Corporation, at a cost amounting to little short of £600. according to the present estimate of money. The King was

much pleased with the attention of the Burgesses, and granted them a new Charter, containing an extension of the boundaries of their liberties, with other valuable privileges, not the least of which was, an exemption from taxes in the largest manner possible. This Charter is dated Dec. 14th, 1495.

Henry VIII. in 1526, gave his only child Mary, the title of "Prince of Wales," with the distinction of nominally directing the Marches, and in this year John Harman alias Vesy, Bishop of Exeter, president of the Princess Mary's council, attended by several noblemen and gentlemen connected therewith, came from Ludlow, taking up his abode at the Abbey; according to ancient custom, and "for the honour of the town," presents were sent to him by the bailiffs.

At the end of the year 1535, the Dukes of Richmond, Suffolk and Norfolk, were here with a great retinue, about which time an act received the sanction of the legislature allowing the Archbishops and Bishops to choose Suffragans, to be called after the town in which they resided. One of the places selected was Shrewsbury, and Lewis Thomas, late Abbot of Kymner, (ie) Cymhîr, was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of the See of Salop, June 24th, 1537, by Archbishop Cranmer.

At the general dissolution of monastries, in 1539, it appears to have been the intention of Henry VIII. to form thirteen new bishopricks,* one of these was to have been at Shrewsbury. Browne Willis states that John Boucher, Abbot of Leicester, was actually nominated "BISHOP OF

* Our ancestors petitioned the king for permission to convert the monastry of Salop into "a college, or free school."

SHREWSBURY ;"—hence the tradition, so gratifying to the pride of every true Salopian, "that their forefathers had the offer of having their borough converted into a city, but that they preferred inhabiting the FIRST OF TOWNS."

1551. The spring of this year was fatally distinguished by the commencement of a dreadful epidemic in this town, called the "sweating sickness."

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Henry Sidney, President of Wales and Lord Deputy of Ireland, visited this town almost annually, and was always received with the highest respect; his celebrated son, Sir Phillip, was educated at our Free Schools. Sir Henry, as Knight of the Garter, kept the feast of St. George here, in 1581, with great splendour. He marched in state from his residence, the Council House, to St. Chad's Church, the stalls of which were decorated with the arms of the knights, divine service being "sung by note." On the 1st of May, the four masters of the schools entertained his lordship with a costly banquet, and on the following day three hundred and sixty of the scholars assembled in the "Gay," several of whom addressed him in speeches. He departed on the 8th, by water, "taking his bardge nnder the Castle," when another pageant took place on the island near the Horse Ferry.

King Charles I. in 1638 gave the Burgesses a new Charter, but the privileges and immunities which they already enjoyed by grants from successive sovereigns were so extensive, that there was little left for this Monarch to bestow, except some marks of exterior dignity; the principal of which was, the change of their chief magistrates from two Bailiffs to one, who had the superior title of Mayor. In the early part of the rebellion, the Corporation sent an

invitation to Charles, stating that he should "have free access into the town and be entertained in the best manner these troublous times afford." He willingly accepted the loyal offer of his Salopian subjects, and arrived here Sept. 20th, 1642, and kept his Court at the Council House. The urgency however of his affairs compelled him to leave on the 23rd for Chester, but he returned on the 27th, and on the following day delivered an animated harrangue to the chief gentlemen of the County then assembled here, and who had in his time of need rendered him pecuniary assistance and service. After expressing "his satisfaction, that the insolences and misfortunes which drove him about his kingdom had brought him to so good and faithful a part of it," and that he had "sent for a *mint*, and would melt all his plate, and sell, or mortgage all his land to diminish the pressure upon them;" he forcibly urged their future aid, "that whilst ill men sacrifice their money, to destroy the commonwealth, be you no less liberal to preserve it, &c." The mint alluded to in his Majesty's speech, was that which had been set up in the Castle of Aberystwith in 1637, under the superintendence of Thomas Bushell, Esq. and it continued here until its removal to Oxford, in January, 1643, coining about £1000. per week, in 20s., 10s., crown, and half-crown pieces. The obverse of these pieces is the same which had been used in the Aberystwith mint, an equestrian figure of the Monarch, behind him the Prince's feather. The Shrewsbury coinage may be distinguished by the date 1642, with the value XX., X., V., on the reverse. The King also sent here a press to print his declarations, probably the first that had been used within our walls. Previously to his quitting Shrewsbury, his army (which had been exercised on a spot afterwards called the "SOLDIER'S PIECE,"

and now used as a race ground), was joined by three Regiments from Glamorganshire, while numbers also from other counties in Wales crowded to his standard, amounting to about 6000 foot and 2000 horse, making with his own a total of 12,000, with which the King marched to London on the 12th of October, borrowing £600. out of the School chest, for the supply of his necessities, and leaving behind him two pices of ordnance, as a present to the corporation for the defence of the town.

The inhabitants were subsequently heavily assessed for the repair of the Castle ramparts, the postern gates, and the walls, as well as to pay the soldier's wages, having already raised 200 foot and 60 dragoons at their own charge. These were under the command of Francis Ottley, Esq. "Captain of the town," who was afterwards appointed Governor thereof, and received from the King the honour of knighthood. This force was soon augmented, and other pieces of ordnance purchased, which called for further subsidies and the adoption of measures absolutely requisite for the protection of the place, especially as the parliament were sensible of its value as a strong inland garrison.

Important as Shrewsbury was, as a place of refuge to the Royalists in these parts, it was, nevertheless, gradually sinking into a state of impoverishment from the repeated exactions, which had been for some time made upon the residents in their espousal of the cause of Charles. At length, on February 22nd, 1644-5, the town was surprised mainly by an act of treachery, and taken by the forces under the command of Colonels Mytton and Bowyer of the parliamentary army, the inhabitants experiencing all the vicissitudes of a siege, in the plunder of their goods and destruction of

property. The manner in which this was effected will be found noticed in a subsequent page. The number of prisoners taken on the occasion was great, since the place had long been esteemed a secure retreat for the surrounding gentry. eight knights and baronets, forty colonels, majors, and captains, and two hundred private Soldiers being enumerated among the captured, besides 14 pieces of ordnance, several hundred stacks of arms, and a quantity of ammunition. The soldiers enriched themselves with a plentiful booty.—and the landed proprietors taken in charge were admitted to compound for their estates and loyalty upon payment of large sums of money. Many persons of rank and fortune were deprived of their freedom, and fifty families were put out of the town for "malignancy."

In 1655 an attempt was made to surprise the town in favour of the restoration of monarchy by Sir Thomas Harries, but the scheme was frustrated by the indiscretion of Sir Ralph Kynaston, of Maes-brook, publicly enlisting troopers for the purpose, who were to have mustered in Boreatton Park, on the night of the 9th of March. On the morning of that day, Humphrey Mackworth the Governor of Shrewsbury, hearing of the design, instantly impressed the best horses in the town, and with his friends proceeded to Boreatton, and seized the insurgents, with their arms and ammunition, some of them fled, and others finding resistance useless, surrendered upon the assurance of receiving quarter, no lives being sacrificed on the occasion. Yet, however, the "Protector" spared them in this respect, he had no mercy on their purses. Subsequently more decisive measures were arranged to rescue the town from the Parliament, but these were rendered unnecessary by the return of Charles II, May 29th, 1660; after which, as the seat of Government was

confined to the metropolis, and civil warfare was at an end, the importance of Shrewsbury as a military station naturally ceased in a political and historical point of view.

James II. in the month of August, 1687, kept his Court at the Council House, and was attended by many of the nobility and gentry of the county, on which occasion, it is said, "the conduits ran with wine," and other most liberal entertainments and rejoicings welcomed the royal guest. At the same time he graciously received a purse of one hundred guineas, which was presented to him by the munificence of the Corporation.

The inhabitants on many occasions have been thus foremost to testify loyalty to their sovereign. In 1715 their adherence to the House of Hanover was strongly manifested by their voluntarily raising a body of horse and foot for the protection of the town, and placing the walls and gates (then entire) in a position of defence. At the time also apprehensions were entertained of the Pretender and the Scottish invasion in 1745, a regiment of foot was raised for the service of government; and, subsequently, a militia force and cavalry have been embodied.

In the year 1832, the most lively enthusiasm was displayed on the entrance into Shrewsbury of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and her daughter, now our Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

From the cursory view which has been taken of the leading events of our ancient history, the reader must be reminded that it would have been less difficult to the writer could he have extended his observations; but the very nature of the work as a notice of the *present*, rather than of

the *past* state of the place, required brevity of description in this, as it will also be found necessary with respect to other portions of the present publication.

THE CASTLE.

The civil history of the town being somewhat connected with the Castle, a notice of that edifice will properly occupy this place.

After the earldom of Shrewsbury had been given by William the Conqueror to Roger de Montgomery, one of his first works was the building of a stately Castle, or, rather, the enlargement of a former one, which it is certain existed here anterior to the Norman Conquest, on that narrow isthmus where the town is undefended by the river. This is supposed to have taken place about the year 1070, on a site previously occupied by fifty-one houses, and was a measure of necessity, in order to restrain the hostile incursions of the Welsh, to which the town, from its situation near the borders, was frequently exposed; and having probably received injury from the siege two years previously, and being also limited in size, was inadequate to the dignity of a wealthy earl, who enjoyed the feudal supremacy of nearly the whole of Shropshire.

The Castle, in succession, was possessed by the two sons of the founder, until the reign of Henry I. when it became a royal fortress, under the custody of a constable, and certain lands and demesnes were parcelled out in sergeanties for the defence thereof upon occasion. The constables were generally persons of note, and the Sheriff of the County frequently held it as a help to him in the defence of his bailwick.

Edward I. introduced a new style of castellated architecture ; the stronger portion, therefore, now remaining was probably erected by direction of that monarch, being in the style generally adopted during his reign.

On the union of Wales it was no longer important as a place of defence, and the building began gradually to decay, although in the civil war it was repaired and garrisoned for the king, and afterwards escaped the almost general demolition of royal fortresses by its surrender to the parliamentary army in 1645. In the time of James II. "all the cannon and match, of which there were several hundred-weight," and most of the muskets then in the castle, were by the King's order sent away.

The Castle was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Richard Onslow, Esq. from whom it reverted to the burgesses, who resigned it to Charles II. and that monarch presented it to Lord Newport, afterwards Earl of Bradford. It is now the property of the Duke of Cleveland.

The present remains have a picturesque effect, and are composed of a deep red stone. They consist of the keep, the walls of the inner court, and the great semi-circular arch of

THE INTERIOR GATEWAY,

from which Robert, the third son of Earl Roger de Montgomery, and the last Norman Earl of Shrewsbury issued with the keys of the gates to make submission to Henry I. Although the masonry of the jambs of this noble gateway is singularly irregular, it has, through a period of nearly 800 years, retained its strength unshaken amid the ravages

of time and war. It was formerly defended by a portcullis and towers.

The keep consists of two large round towers, embattled and pierced, connected by a square building of about 100 feet in length. The interior is much altered from its original appearance, and now forms a handsome private residence, modern pointed windows having been placed therein when it was repaired by Sir William Pulteney, about the close of the last century. The drawing room is supposed to have been the guard chamber in the time of Charles I. The castle until lately, retained one mark of its ancient dignity, for in the area of the inner court, the knights of the shire were formerly nominated, and on the result of the election were girt with their swords by the Sheriff. On the north-east side of this court is a postern, built in the time of Charles I.; and the battlements of the western wall, recently restored, have an interior platform, and are curiously pierced with narrow eyelets for the convenience of the cross-bowmen.

On the south side within the court is a mount,* rising upwards of 100 feet above the bed of the river. The summit is surrounded by a wall, and crowned by a watch tower, which forms a bold and beautiful object. The tower was rebuilt during the repair of the castle, from a design and under the superintendance of the late Thomas Telford, Esq., who was then residing with Sir William Pulteney. In this elevated building Mr. Telford wrote the beautiful poem to his countryman Burns, and alludes to its site near the Severn.

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* This was an essential characteristic of the castellated structure of the Danes, although subsequently adopted by the Normans.

The sides of the mount are richly planted, and the summit commands a view of unrivalled beauty, with the most extensive amphitheatre of mountains of which perhaps the island can boast, inclosing within its wide sweep an eminently fertile, finely wooded, and beautifully diversified champaign country. 'Tis here that, after the eye has wandered from object to object, from the foreground to the most extreme distance with delight, that the words of *Cowper* naturally occur, as if written upon such a spot—"Oh, scene surpassing fable and yet true."

It is now difficult to form an adequate idea of the original extent of this fortress; but it is certain that the castle formerly occupied a much larger space than is at present marked out by its walls, the ballium (or outer court) extending within the town probably as far as the water-lane. The northern and north eastern sides were defended by a deep ditch or vallum, encompassing the base of the bold and natural elevation on which the castle stands, having a communication with the river, this has been long filled up, and is occuped by a portion of the offices connected with the Railway Station.

The remains of a duplicate rampart is distinguishable on the western side; and other outworks might have stood near the front of the present county gaol, the Severn being a protection towards the east.

THE FEUDAL STATE

of Shrewsbury carries with it associations of imposing importance;—seated upon a hill rising from a noble ambient river, it was thus doubly fortified by nature; while art, with no unsparing hand, had raised an almost impregnable rampart of stone, flanked by many towers and gates.

The imagination will thus readily picture CAER PENGWERN: the woody eminence, with its curiously wrought buildings and domestic mansions ranged in irregular groups, surmounted by lofty spires and embattled turrets, irradiated by the effulgence of the meridian sun, or catching the last smiles of his departing ray,—a commanding castle on the narrow isthmus, with its stately towers and formidable walls, frowning in august pride high above the surrounding plain, —solitary convents, crested with pinnacles and gables, in the verdant meadows on the margin of the flowing stream, over which strongly fortified bridges with massive portcullis and towers, afforded a defence against hostile invaders.

This faint retrospect must kindle in the mind considerations of the progress and fluctuations of science and taste, —the character, condition, and habits of men in these times,—with the works done "in their days and in the old time before them;"—while the contemplation thereof cannot fail of exciting gratitude to the SUPREME GIVER, for the security we *now* enjoy, without the precaution of barbican and battlements.

GATES AND WALLS.

The town had originally three principal gates, besides several postern or smaller gates, and was from an early period encompassed with a wall, one mile and a half in circuit, and strengthened by towers in those parts most liable to be attacked. Within the last sixty years many parts of the walls have been built upon, and the gates and towers, with one exception, fallen a prey, not so much to the ruthless power of time, as to the less sparing enemy—modern improvement.

PRESENT STATE.

"A lovely spot
For all that life can ask ! Salubrious ! mild !
Its hills are green ; its woods and prospects fair."

The bold situation of the town, encircled by the health-bearing breezes of a beauteous river, with an eminence crown'd by aspiring temples, gives a striking and majestic appearance to Shrewsbury.

When seen from most parts of the adjacent country the town forms a delightful object,—a gem encircled by a paradise ;—fresh beauties and charming views being continually produced by the pre-eminent spires and towers; whilst the effect in the background is much heightened by an extensive range of noble mountains, which diversify the prospect, and add interest to the rich and picturesque landscape.

The exterior of the town is in most parts separated from the river by a portion of garden and meadow ground, skirted by a line of genteel houses, which command delightful prospects of the adjoining country.

As a place of residence Shrewsbury has long been considered highly eligible, from its elevated and beautiful situation, the salubrity and general healthfulness of its air, the natural dryness of the soil, the agreeable drives and promenades by which it is surrounded, and (what is equally important) the excellence and purity of its water.

The climate is considered to be more continental than that of Cheltenham, and to possess a more agreeable, and

nearly as warm a temperature as that of London during the day. The inequality in respect to the latter, may possibly be ascribed to the proximity of the wide river that surrounds the town, and thereby cools the air.

The immediate vicinity abounds with most delightful scenery,—peculiar indeed from its extreme variety,—presenting on all sides the different aspects of mountain and woodland prospects. The horizon in most parts is bounded by a succession of undulating eminences diversified by bolder swells,—which from many points receede gracefully into broad and expanded distance, and appear as it were lost in the clouds.

It may be also remarked that Shrewsbury is less liable to violent tempests and thunder storms than most other places, and although dark and heavy clouds charged with rain, are often seen in the distance, yet these seem chiefly to be attracted by the line of hills before noticed,—where, and along the interior country, much of their force is expended before reaching the town.

Many parts of the environs have been justly recommended as suitable to valetudinarians who may visit Shrewsbury from distant parts, to avail themselves of the medical assistance which it possesses, and who are, as it were, enticed by the agreeableness and variety of the scenery to a salutary and necessary exercise.

The interior of the town presents several curious and interesting specimens of the domestic architecture of our ancestors; the projecting bay windows, fanciful antique carving, mouldings, &c. display a singular appearance in

contrast with the more modern habitations, in many of which the taste of their respective proprietors is effectively evinced.

The streets, as in most other ancient towns, are irregularly formed, but many important alterations however have been made, under the provisions of an act obtained in 1821, for removing obstructions, watching, lighting, and the general improvement of the town, the powers of which are vested in trustees, who must be persons occupying property rated at £50 per annum to the street assessment, or worth £2000 above reprizes and resident within the town, or resident and receiving rents to the amount of £80 per annum, or non-resident and receiving rents from premises within the town worth £100 per annum, from whom a committee of management of nine individuals is selected, three of whom retire annually by rotation; and it has been remarked by one of the first members of this committee, "*that if judiciously chosen and faithful to their trust, our town may in time assume its due place among the cities of the empire.*"

In 1820 a company was established, with a capital of £8000, raised in 800 shares of £10 each, to supply the town with gas, this useful light is now extended to the extreme limits of the suburbs.

POPULATION.

The following official return of the population of the six parishes within the parliamentary boundary of the town of

Shrewsbury is according to the census ordered by government in 1841 :—

Parishes.	Houses.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Chad.....	1672	3445	4188	7633
St. Mary.....	1298	2950	3113	6063
St. Alkmund.....	351	746	895	1641
St. Julian	815	1539	1712	3251
Holy Cross & St. Giles	424	748	994	1742
Meole Brace.....	242	545	650	1195
Total population.....				21,525

The extent of the borough is $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length from north to south, and the same from east to west.

ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS.

Public structures devoted to the service of religion are generally the first objects that excite the attention, whilst by many they are not unfrequently looked upon with feelings of veneration and regard.

Shrewsbury, did not receive much improvement from its original inhabitants, the Britons; yet what it lost in nominal consequence as the metropolis of a kingdom, it ultimately gained in external splendour and real importance: this is evinced, among other proofs, by the erection of five ecclesi-

astical foundations, all of which were anterior to the Norman conquest, and originated in Saxon piety.

Among the earliest of these may be mentioned SAINT CHAD'S, which is ascribed to one of the Mercian kings, who is said to have converted the palace of the king of Powis into a church, about the year 780.

A dean, and ten prebendaries or secular canons, with two vicars choral, under the patronage of the Bishop of Lichfield, are stated to have been placed here at a very remote period.

Under the Anglo-Saxon Monarchs this College possessed twelve hides of arable land, or as much as paid for 1440 acres to what would be now called the land-tax; which, by proper cultivation, appears from the Survey of Domesday to have increased more than double. Other estates were subsequently added, which form now only insulated districts of the parish. By the act of 1 Edward VI. 1547, the College was dissolved, the tythes and profits at that time being of the clear yearly value of about £50. The buildings and estates were leased out, reserving only the small stipend of £4. 6s. 8d. for the parish minister, charged on the dean's prebendal estate at Onslow. Although a lease was granted of the tythes, yet only two years afterwards the greater portion of them were appropriated by Edward VI. in aid of the Free Grammar School, and which now produce nearly £700. per annum.

In 1579 Queen Elizabeth granted the remaining possessions of the deanry to Sir Christopher Hatton; but the corporation and also the parish seem to have presented to the living from 1583 until 1658-9, from which time the patronage has rested with the crown.

SAINT ALKMUND'S CHURCH owes its foundation to the piety of Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, soon after she succeeded to the sovereignty of the Mercian territory in 912. Her great nephew, King Edgar, being of the race of the Northumbrian Prince Alkmund, increased the original endowment, and under the direction of Archbishop Dunstan appointed a dean and ten prebends.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, this College possessed eleven manors, nine of which, containing upwards of 4000 acres, it retained at the Norman survey. After experiencing many of the fluctuations common to property, sacred or otherwise, during the dark ages and under lawless government, these estates were at length alienated in 1147, at the particular request of the Dean, Richard de Belemis, and with the consent of King Stephen and Pope Eugenius III. to the monastry of Lilleshall, which the dean's brother, Philip de Belemis, had just commenced, the Prebendaries however taking care to reserve to themselves a life interest in their several stipends.

The college being thus early dissolved and deprived of its valuable estates, fell into a humble vicarage, which remained in the patronage of the monks of Lilleshall until the dissolution, when it lapsed to the crown, in whose hands it continued until 1628, when Rowland Heylin, Esq.* of Pentreheylin, Montgomeryshire, purchased the advowson for

* Mr. Heylin appears to have been connected with this town, having previously founded a lectureship in St. Alkmund's Church, to which he afterwards added the tithe of Coton. In 1630 he was at the expence of printing the Welsh Bible in octavo, a form more suitable for domestic reading than the two former folio editions.

the "feoffees of St. Antholines," a society instituted for founding lectureships and augmenting small livings in populous towns. This society having been publicly denounced, and the orthodoxy of its principles questioned, the ministers of King James, in 1663, directed its suppression, when the living again reverted to the crown.

THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. MARY is considered to have been founded by King Edgar, about the year 980; although, from the extensive limits of the parish, it is probable this was only the renovation of an older church destroyed by the ravages of the Danes, who, in revenging the slaughter of their predecessors, not only exercised their warfare against mankind, but even those works of ingenuity and labour which were consecrated to devotion did not escape their desolating hand.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, this college possessed an estate of nearly 1300 acres, "for the maintenance of a dean, seven prebendaries, and a parish priest," which appears to have diminished in point of cultivation and consequent value at the survey of Domesday, in which, however, the "vill of Chorleton," held in conjunction with the church of St. Juliana, is unnoticed, having probably been acquired afterwards.

At the suppression of colleges the revenue was £42, when Edward VI. appropriated the greater part of the tithes of this, as he had done those of St. Chad's parish, to the bailiffs and burgesses, for the foundation of a free school.

This church from very remote times has been a "royal free chapel," and thereby exempt from the jurisdiction of

the bishop. By an act which came into operation, October, 1846, this privilege ceased.

THE CHURCH OF ST. JULIANA.—Little is known of this, further than its origin was Saxon, and that it held in the Norman survey "half a hide of land in the city." Soon after this period it became distinguished as a rectory and royal free chapel, and was early united to the church of St. Michael within the Castle, now destroyed.

In 1410, Henry IV. annexed both these churches to his college at Battlefield; and being thus deprived of its property, St. Julian's became no better than a curacy.

The site of St. Michael's church cannot now be satisfactorily stated. It was probably a small structure, and designed by its founder Roger de Montgomery, as a place of worship for those who inhabited the keep; it stood as its name implies, *within* the walls, (similar to the one at Ludlow Castle), and was taken down about the year 1605.

THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, called "*The Parish of the City*," was a small structure of wood, built about Edward the Confessor's time, by Siward, a Saxon nobleman, and stood on the site where Earl Roger de Montgomery founded a large Benedictine Abbey in 1083, which was re-dedicated to St. Peter.

On the arrival of the Earl, Siward (who was his kinsman,) probably resigned the church to him, and the former, immediately granted it to his counsellor, Odelirius, a married Priest of Orleans, who, being his friend and faithful adviser, exhorted the Earl to build a monastery here, offering on his part to give £15. sterling, and himself and his son Benedict

and all that he had to it. Moved therefore by his entreaty, the Earl commenced the work, and two monks, Rainald and Frodo, were sent for from the monastery at Seez, to dispose the buildings.

The venerable warrior at this time resided in his castle at Shrewsbury, where he was seized with his last illness, and having previously ordered in the event of his dying in England, that he should be buried in his Abbey, and finding the decay of nature wearing upon him, obtained the consent of his Countess Adelaissa de Pusay to make the vow of Celibacy, and was, on the 14th July, 1094, entered a monk on his own foundation, and dying three days afterwards, received honourable interment in the "Lady Chapel" of that pile he had zealously begun, and nearly completed, to the service and honour of his Maker.

The original endowment appears to have been scanty, considering the vast possessions granted by the conqueror to the first Earl of Shrewsbury.

Hugh, his second son, surnamed Probus for his courage, and Goch (or the Red) by the Welshmen from his complexion, succeeded to the earldom, and in filial affection came with his barons to the abbey, to visit his father's tomb; when he confirmed all former endowments, and gave many additional privileges, to which several of his barons added estates.*

* Earl Hugh was slain by an arrow in Anglesea, in the month of July, 1098, and received sepulture seventeen days after in the cloisters of this abbey. Thirty years ago, a plain stone coffin was discovered near the south-west door of the present church, which probably enclosed his remains.

Scarcely a century had elapsed from its foundation before the monastery possessed "seventy-one distinct grants of manors or lands, twenty-four churches, the tithes of thirty-seven parishes or vills," besides many extensive immunities of various descriptions, and an almost matchless collection of unique relics, in addition to the remains of that popular "martyr," St. Wenefreda, which the monks procured, after many tedious negotiations, from the priests and inhabitants of Gwytherin, in the County of Denbigh, in order to increase the celebrity of their house. After their translation hither, they were enshrined with much pomp near the high altar, and attracted multitudes of pilgrims, whose benefactions greatly contributed to the emolument of the church.

The abbot of this monastery had the honour of a seat in Parliament, and the authority of a bishop within his house. Of the 608 monasteries that existed in this kingdom at the time of the dissolution, it is recorded "the Abbey of Shrewsbury was 34th in opulence."

According to the valor of 26th Henry VIII. the annual income was £572. 15s. 5d. a revenue considered equal to about £4750. of modern currency. Its surrender took place 24th January, 1539-40, when the estates and buildings immediately passed into lay hands.

St. Giles's Church was built early in the reign of Henry I. for the service of a hospital of lepers, which stood at the west end of the present edifice.

It is supposed to have become parochial about the middle of the fifteenth century, on being united with the parish of Holy Cross within the monastery, the abbot and convent,

no doubt, having previously possessed the patronage and appointment of master. A deed among the parish archives, dated 1483, mentions the wardens of the Holy Cross in the monastery of St. Peter, Salop, and of the parish church of St. Giles, of Monks-foregate.

Subsequently to these, were erected three large conventual churches and eight smaller chapels, all of which shared the fate of the dissolution; and of their remains the ceaseless operations of time and the hand of man have spared but few traces. It may be also mentioned that several chantries, altars, &c. were maintained by private donations in these churches, with zeal and munificence.

From this cursory view of the piety of our forefathers, it may be justly asserted, that in the present day there is no provincial town in the kingdom, considering its extent, where so much has been done to promote the cause of religion, and to give a suitable effect to buildings set apart for Divine Worship, as in Shrewsbury. Within the last twenty years three new churches have been erected in the suburbs, and the disused edifice of St. Giles's opened for public service, these afford accommodation for at least 2500 persons. Those individuals, therefore, whose taste and liberality have mainly contributed to the accomplishment of this praiseworthy object, are deserving of the best thanks of their cotemporaries; and to them posterity will owe a debt of admiring gratitude, in those feelings of awe which insensibly steal o'er the mind while contemplating the architectural beauties of temples dedicated to HIM, whose greatness as far exceeds the capacity of human thought as doth the immensity of space the smallest atom.

Our survey of these interesting buildings will commence, in chronological arrangement, with

THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. CHAD.

"In midst of towne fower Parish Churches are,
Full nere and close, together note that right:
For they doe seeme a true love knot to sight."

These quaint lines of our native poet Churchyard, with the illustrative vignette, describe the situation which the

spacious cruciform church of Old Saint Chad occupied on the southern eminence of the town.

The period of its early foundation has been already alluded to, and the nearly total destruction of the fabric was occasioned by workmen having very injudiciously commenced under-building (contrary to the advice of an experienced architect), one of the pillars that supported the large central tower, which had shrunk considerably from graves having been carelessly made too close to its foundations. The slight vibration occasioned by the chimes proclaiming their matin tune at four o'clock, on July 9th, 1788, caused the decayed pillar to give way, when the ponderous tower rent asunder, and with the heavy peal of bells it contained, falling on the roofs of the nave and transepts, crushed those parts of the edifice into ruinous desolation, producing a scene of horrid confusion more easily to be imagined than described. The masons had a narrow but fortunate escape, and were only waiting at the adjoining house of the sexton for the keys of the church, to pursue their misdirected scheme of economy.

The event excited a great consternation in the town, and the exemplary vicar, the Rev. Thomas Stedman, addressed an affectionate pastoral letter to his parishioners on the improvement that should be made of so remarkable an interposition of Providence, which occurred at a time when not a single person was within the reach of any injury from it.

Before the church fell, apprehensions were suggested that some fatal consequences might follow, from the appearances of decay in different parts of the building; these fears, however, were comparatively slight, and no immediate danger expected. But after the event took place it was

found that the shattered state of the edifice was such, that instead of exciting surprise that it should fall when it did, there were just grounds for amazement that it should have stood so long. Had the decayed state of the building been thoroughly understood before it gave way, the probable opinion would have been, that whenever the disaster happened, it would be at a time when the effects of it might have been dreadful to many ;—as when the greatest weight was in the galleries, or when the tower had been shaken by the motion of the bells. Only a month previously 3000 persons, it is considered, were assembled in the church to witness the interment of an officer under military honours.

The old church was a majestic edifice, erected in the reign of Henry III. in the style when the round Norman arches were giving way to the beautiful lancet style. In 1393 the roofs and tower, with the wooden spire covered with lead, were destroyed by a calamitous fire, occasioned by the negligence of a plumber while repairing the leads. The damage being considerable, Richard II. granted to the inhabitants a remission of their fee-farm rent, and certain other taxes, towards the re-edification.

From the fragments of Saxon sculpture discovered in portions of the walls after the fall of the late fabric, the edifice which preceded it must have been considerably adorned.

The dawning light of the Reformation in Shrewsbury first beamed in this church in 1407, by William Thorpe, a priest and disciple of the doctrines promulgated by Wickliff. This Salopian reformer, in a sermon before the bailiffs on the third Sunday after Easter, boldly preached against the prevailing and favourite tenets of the Romish church ; for

his temerity he was thrown into the prison of the town, by command of the local authorities, where he remained about a month, and was afterwards removed to Lambeth for examination before the archbishop, the bailiffs preferring the charge of heresy and schism against him.

The conduct of Thorpe before his spiritual superior was decent and respectful, but at the same time he remained zealous in his vindication of scripture, and firm in support of that which he considered the truth,—thus intrepidly answering the archbishop, "I'll tell you at one word, I dare not from the dread of God submit unto you, notwithstanding the tenure and sentence that you have rehearsed to me." He was accordingly sent back to prison: his subsequent fate is no where recorded, but it is conjectured on good grounds he was liberated after the death of the archbishop, so that what Fox has asserted of his having died a martyr to hard usage is probably incorrect.

The exercise of the Protestant religion in this town also began in this church in 1573, under the direction of the Bishop of Lichfield and the Lord President of the Marches, as special commissioners from Queen Elizabeth.

The portion of the ruins now remaining stood south of the choir, and formed a chantry chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary; after the Reformation it was called the Bishop's Chancel, from the circumstance of its being used at the visitations of the bishop and archdeacon. The two wide semi-circular arches (now walled up) separated it from the transepts and choir. On the outside north wall are three stone stalls having pointed arches, the concaves of which are groined; these originally adjoined the high altar, and formed the seats of the priest, deacon, and sub-deacon,

during a part of the high mass. The east and south sides have each two mullioned windows; one adjoining the newel staircase in the south-west pier, which once led to the belfry, is in the perpendicular style, and was probably introduced when the building was repaired in 1496; the others have elegant trefoiled tracery, and were erected in 1571, when the chapel was nearly rebuilt by Humphrey Onslow, Esq. to the dilapidations of which he appears to have been liable by the lease granted to him of the deanry when the dissolution of the college was anticipated in 1542-3.

The interior has an oak panelled ceiling, and contains a few monumental tablets and hatchments, most of the ancient memorials having been removed on the fall of the church to other places; and is now used for reading the burial service connected with the spacious cemetery in which it stands.

Among the monuments is one to the memory of that excellent man, the Rev. JOB ORTON, V. D. M. who "being dead, yet speaketh," in the forcible discourses and truly admirable writings he has left behind. He was the friend and biographer of Doddridge, and died 16th July, 1783, aged 66. His remains were interred at his request in the grave of the Rev. J. Bryan, M. A. an ejected minister from this church.

A humble gravestone near the pathway leading towards Belmont records the death of Capt. JOHN BENBOW, who was shot at the Castle, Oct. 16th, 1651, for his attachment to the cause of King Charles the Second.

Several members of ancient families and distinguished individuals connected with the town and county, received interment in this church. Among these may be mentioned

those of CORBET, MYTTON, BURTON, OWEN, LYSTER, and IRELAND.

ROWLAND LEE, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, and Lord President of the Marches, was buried here. He died Jan. 27th, 1542-3, at the College, the residence of his brother, Sir George Lee, who was the last dean of the church.

THE NEW CHURCH OF SAINT CHAD.

is erected on a beautiful site near the Quarry, and, considering the disadvantages of form which preclude the possibility of much architectural effect, it may be looked upon as an ornamental building, being composed of fine Grinshill stone.

That a circular plan was adopted in preference to the lofty proportions of a design more congenial to English feelings and prejudices is a circumstance much to be regretted.

This was the result of a misunderstanding on the part of the architect, Mr. George Steuart, of London, with the committee of parishioners chosen to manage the rebuilding. The latter had been wearied in their endeavours by much difference of opinion as to the eligibility of the old site, and further contention and delay in the selection of another more suitable, while the former having completed estimates, working drawings, &c. adapted as he considered under their approbation for land forming a portion of the Quarry, would not prepare others until he was remunerated for those with which he understood them to be satisfied. The Committee being unwilling to cause a renewal of the angry disputes which the re-edification of the Church on another spot had already produced, and to save time and expence, resolved to commence the new structure on the proposed circular plan, which took place March 2nd, 1790, and, by active management, was completed and consecrated August 19th, 1792, the ground being held under lease from the Corporation of Shrewsbury for a period of 999 years, at an annual rent of nine pounds, ten shillings.

The Church is formed by the intersection of two circles, with a lofty tower and portico attached; the smaller of the circles forming the inner vestibule containing the grand staircase, and the larger one the body, chancel, and side staircases leading to the gallery; a portion of the circle inside being taken off for the latter purposes, which affords likewise a recess for the chancel. The basement of the

tower is open, on each side of which is a square wing 24 feet by 19, appropriated as a vestry and a place for the transaction of parochial business.

The exterior is divided into two stories, the lower one being rusticated, and the upper springing from a moulding displaying a continued Ionic entablature, supported by coupled pilasters of the same order; above the cornice is a well-proportioned balustrade, intended by the architect to have been crowned with statues of the twelve apostles.

The windows are circular headed in the upper, and square in the lower story, and, with the exception of that in the chancel, are uniform; the latter is Venetian, the divisions being formed with Corinthian pillars.

The portico consists of four Roman Doric columns and entablature in full order, and is considered a good specimen.

The steeple is divided into three parts, and, like the body of the church, is rusticated at the base, which is square; on this rests the second division, or bell chamber, octangular in shape, and decorated with Ionic pilasters, cornice. &c.; above rises eight elegant Corinthian columns, surrounded with an iron railing, and surmounted by a dome, cross, and vane.

THE INTERIOR carries with it an air of importance, grandeur, and extent, derived mainly from that form which in the exterior has so much shackled the efforts of the architect: dazzled for a moment by the first impressions, the detail is lost in the general effect; but from the whole the eye is directed to those parts which constitute that whole, and here defects may be discovered that will not stand the test of architectural scrutiny.

The seats are well constructed, every individual being able to see the officiating minister. The gallery is not thrown too forward, but is in every respect in unison with the size of the church; it is carried round the whole area with the exception of the chancel, and supported by a double row of ill-proportioned Ionic columns, painted porphyry. A continued balustrade finishes the front of the gallery, from which rises slender fluted columns (surmounted with entablature) for the support of the roof, the frieze being decorated with angels, encircled by a glory within a wreath of honeysuckles. The ceiling is enriched with a large glory and cherubs in the centre, surrounded by a wreath and other devices. The frieze, &c. is painted in imitation of oak, and the modillion cornice, ogee moulding, and other prominent parts thereof gilded. The glory is heightened at the extreme point of the rays, preserving the same tint as in the ground of the ceiling, and being shadowed from the clouds, an aerial effect is produced. The whole of the painting and decorations were executed by Mr. T. Birch.

THE CHANCEL,

contrary to general custom, is towards the north, and is separated from the body of the church by a handsome arch springing from an entablature supported by coupled composite columns, elegantly proportioned, and the capitals richly gilt. The intrado of the arch is panelled, and in the apex, within a circle, is an open flower. The walls and ceiling are painted porphyry, and the mouldings being relieved with gold, display to advantage the several lines of the arched recess; the spandril between which, and the centre light of the window, contains cherubs, issuing from a mass of clouds and diverging rays, which are in solid gold.

The altar-piece is of oak wainscot, with panels inscribed with the decalogue, &c. These are surrounded by a deep border, which with the mouldings and the rails in front of the communion, are gilded. Above is a large Venetian window, the divisions being formed by Corinthian columns at the expense of the Rev. R. Scott;* these support a handsome cornice and architrave, the caps and finishings of which with the side pilasters are enriched with gold, and give a bold and beautiful termination to the church.

This window formerly contained a painting in enamelled glass of the Resurrection of our Saviour, by the elder Eginton, but was replaced in September, 1842, by the munificence of the late Rev. Richard Scott, with another in stained glass, from a copy of the celebrated painting by Rubens, in the south transept of the Cathedral at Antwerp.

The centre compartment contains "The Descent from the Cross," and the side lights, "The Visitation" and "The Presentation in the Temple."

"The Descent from the Cross" is a painting of extraordinary merit. In colouring, expression and design, nothing can exceed it as a composition. The pale, ghastly, and relaxed figure of the dead Christ is appallingly true to nature, and contrasts vehemently with the ardent expression and muscular energy of those who are supporting it; while the hanging of the head on the shoulder, and the falling of the body on one side, give an appearance of the heaviness of death, passing description. The white drapery intended

* This gentleman, in the embellishment of the chancel and other gifts, including the windows of stained glass, has expended the munificent sum of nearly £1800.

to cover the sacred body, and which extends downwards from the height of the cross, serves as a base to this noble figure, and relieves, by its clear mass of light, some of the predominant tints.

The grouping of the figures around the body of Christ is pyramidical, and displays the three Marys and five of the disciples, all zealously occupied in the same action—SOLICITUDE, LOVE, and GRIEF. The disciples, leaning over the top of the cross, are in the act of lowering the body, from the grasp of one of whom it appears as if just released. To the left, Joseph of Arimathea supports it under the arm; and St. John, the beloved disciple, standing on the ground, and with one foot resting on the step of the ladder, is characteristically depicted as bearing in his arms the greatest burden of the hallowed remains.

The *red* tunic of St. John, and the *green* drapery of Mary Magdalene, contrasted with the pale body of the Saviour, heighten the apparent projection in front, while the *blue* mantle of the Virgin Mary (half of which is in the shade), the *blue* and *purple* tone of the vestments of Joseph of Arimathea, and of the disciple who is seen to the right, serves to round off the sides.

To the left of the spectator is "THE VISITATION OF MARY TO ELIZABETH." The history is recorded by the Evangelist Luke, i. chap. 39 verse, &c. "And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah, and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elizabeth," &c. It shows a landscape scene. The Virgin Mary and the female with a basket are supposed to be portraits of Rubens' two wives, while the figure denoting Joseph is said to represent the great artist

himself. Elizabeth and her husband are meeting them beneath a portico.

On the right is "THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE," and founded on the words of Holy Simeon, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word." The head of the Priest, the expression, and particularly the colouring of the robe, are remarkably fine. Having blessed the Divine Infant, whom he holds in his arms, he is in the act of returning him to his mother, whose hands are extended to receive her son. Joseph is kneeling in the foreground, and the aged Prophetess Anna, in the rear, forms one of the group.

Such is a brief outline of this celebrated picture, which, although beyond the power of posterity to approach as a work of art, has nevertheless been admirably copied from the original at Antwerp by Mr. John Bridges, of London, for our townsman, Mr. David Evans, who has displayed great skill in delineating the subject in stained glass, and when its magnitude, and the many casual difficulties he had to encounter, are taken into consideration, it will be found that the lights and shadows are well managed, and, as in the original painting, the eye is ever directed to the principal object.

This Church has been further enriched by the late Rev. Richard Scott, with four additional windows of stained glass, representing historical events in the life of our Saviour. To the right of the principal entrance in the body of the church is

THE TRIBUTE MONEY.

Under a rich architectural portico a deputation of disciples from the Pharisees with some Herodians are assembled,

enquiring from Jesus as to the lawfulness of giving Tribute to their Rulers. Knowing the dissembling nature of the question, and to disengage himself from their subtlety, he requests to be shewn a *Denarius*—a species of "Tribute Money," paid by the Jews as an acknowledgment of their subjection to the Roman power—and pointing upwards, gives the memorable answer:—"*Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; and unto God the things that are God's.*" The several figures are well imagined as to expression and character; and through the open arch is seen a view of the adjacent country.

The window on the left represents

CHRIST BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN.

The Saviour appears seated beneath the pillars of a Roman edifice, and shews by his extended arms regard and condescension to several children, on whom he was about to put his hands, with a blessing—to the evident satisfaction of their assembled parents. The disciples are endeavouring to prevent their being brought, and Jesus is in the act of rebuking Peter for discouraging their approach to him, saying "*Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven,*" which is the motto of the subject.

Above this, in the gallery is

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS,

from a design by one of the old masters, founded on the interesting narrative recorded in the 11th chapter of St. John's Gospel. It pourtrays the grief of Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, who, with a sympathizing group of spectators, appear surrounding the grave, situated in the hollow place of a rock, and overshadowed by bold masses

of foliage; a fissure in the back-ground unfolds a distant view of Bethany. The figure of Jesus forms a prominent feature on the left, being depicted with uplifted hand, as in the act of addressing himself as the man mediator to his Father, and bidding "*Lazarus come forth.*" On the right, the body of the beloved Lazarus, supported by two individuals, is seen with loosened grave clothes re-assuming his functions of animation, while the countenances of the other witnesses are varied with expressions of Joy, Gratitude, and Surprise, at this display of omnipotent power.

On the corresponding side of the organ

CHRIST HEALING THE SICK.

He who went about doing good is depicted as performing miracles of Mercy in the evening of the day. One that is afflicted, and borne by two athletic individuals, with a blind man and his attendant, are at the feet of the Saviour, surrounded by a throng of persons, among whom Peter and other of the apostles are conspicuous. On the left, Jesus, with out-stretched arms, appears about to heal their maladies; close by, stands the beloved disciple John; and behind, one of the High Priests, evidently provoked at this striking instance of divine love.

"*And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases.*"—Mark ch. i. ver. xxxiv.

In the distance is a prospect of bold landscape scenery. The sides of the windows have a pannelled pilaster; and were executed by Mr. D. Evans, who has carried out the ideality of the subjects with an energy, that makes each sacred story speak for itself, with powerful and harmonious effect,

THE MEMORIAL WINDOW

has a coloured diapered ground, in the centre of which are the armorial bearings of the Rev. R. Scott. Quarterly 1st and 4th argent, three Catharine Wheels (2 & 1) within a border indented Gules, 2nd and 3rd argent, 3 Cocks (2 & 1) Gules; Motto—Recte faciendo neminem timeas; the whole being surrounded by an elegant foliated border. At the base is inscribed,

IN TESTIMONY OF THE GRATITUDE OF THE PARISHIONERS
TO THE REV. RICHD. SCOTT, B. D.,
FOR HIS MANY LIBERAL GIFTS TO THIS CHURCH,
HIS ARMORIAL BEARINGS WERE PLACED IN THIS WINDOW
BY THE VICAR, CHURCHWARDENS, AND TRUSTEES,
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD MDCCCXLII.

In the centre of the church is a large Font of grey marble, purchased from the parish Church of Malpas, in Cheshire, in 1842. Its original cost was £60, and derives peculiar interest from being the one at which the late revered Bishop Heber was christened.

The pulpit and reading-desk stand in the middle of the area in front of the chancel. The organ is placed above the great entrance: it is in a mahogany case, having on the front a small painting of David playing upon the harp. The instrument was built by Gray, of London, and cost 400 guineas. In 1848 it was enlarged and improved by Gray and Davison, at a cost of £412. Great organ, scale, &c. from C C to F in alt, 9 stops, 546 pipes. Swell from tenor C to F in alt, comprising 9 stops and 462 pipes. Choir organ 8 stops and 288 pipes. The pedal pipes from C C C to E, 29 notes. Total number of pipes, 1325. There are 3 couplers and 5 composition pedals.

Between the piers of the gallery windows are hatchments, and on the walls are several tasteful mural monuments.

Among these may be mentioned a large panelled tablet, having a bust of the deceased by Chantrey, within a recess, commemorative of Mr. John Simpson, "who superintended the building of this Church; the bridges of Bewdley, Dunkeld, Craig, Ellachie, and Bonar; the aqueducts of Pontycysyllte, and Chirk; and the locks and basins of the Caledonian Canal." He died in 1815, aged 60 years.

A similar one, with a bust by the same sculptor, on the corresponding side, is to the "Memory of Mr. William Hazledine, of this town, iron-master, who died October 25th, 1840, aged 77 years." Mr. Hazledine was the contractor for the iron work used in the construction of the Menai Bridge, and many other large undertakings. When Sir Francis Chantrey was in Shrewsbury, Jan. 7th, 1841, he visited this Church, and remarked "that in his studio the bust of Mr. Hazledine was used to be looked upon by him with pleasure, as the best effort of his chisel."

Adjoining this a Tablet records the decease of the Rev. R. Scott, B. D., Oct. 6th, 1848, aged 68 years.*

* Mr. Scott was a munificent benefactor to the town at large. During the last 15 years of his life he expended upwards of £13,000 in public improvements alone, of which sum at least £10,000 was bestowed in adorning seven churches, or by a timely repair and restoration of decayed portions of their architectural beauties. Also by gifts of organs, and services of Communion plate, by ample donations in aid of endowments, and to several of the public institutions and improvements connected with the town and adjacent villages, &c. A portrait of this gentleman hangs in the vestry.

Within the chancel is a small tablet in memory of

The Rev. THOMAS STEDMAN, M.A.
"Forty-two years Vicar of this Parish, during which period
his mind, his writings, and his discourse
were with deep humility devoted
to the glory of God, the happiness of mankind,
and the temporal and spiritual interests of his flock."
He died Dec. 5th, 1825, in the 80th year of his age.

A similar one records the decease of the Rev. James Compson, M.A. Vicar of St. Chad's, who died at Torquay, 28th Dec. 1834, aged 40.

On a large Grecian tablet is a Latin inscription to the memory of the late Rev. Francis Leighton, M.A. who died Sept. 7th, 1813, aged 66 years. A gentleman of warm piety and benevolence. A scholar, linguist, and antiquary.

The body of the church is 100 feet in diameter, and the total length, including the entrance and vestibule, 160 feet. It will comfortably accommodate a congregation of upwards of 2000 persons. The total cost, including site, organ, bells, &c. was £19,352, of which £15,800 was raised under act of parliament, £7000 of which still remains as a debt upon the parish.

In the vestry is a fine carved statue of St. Chad, the patron Saint, in his episcopal habit, holding a bible in his right hand and a crosier in his left. This originally stood upon the organ in the old church.

MONUMENT TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 53rd OR SHROPSHIRE REGIMENT.

A large mural monument in the vestibule commemorates the brave men belonging to the 53rd or *Shropshire* Regi-

ment, who fell in the late war in India. The cost of this handsome memorial was two hundred pounds, and defrayed by the surviving officers of the corps. The combination of the devices and general effect are pleasing and satisfactory.

The monument stands about eight feet high, and is of white marble set on a black ground, and decorated with military acoutrements, tastefully and correctly sculptured in *alto relievo*. It rests on two brackets, supporting a base and sub-base table, on these repose an elegant Grecian tablet, surmounted by a service knapsack, to which, attached by strap and buckle, is a roll coat and mess can; 53 on the front denotes the number of the regiment. On each side of this appear the hilts of two swords, and immediately below, from a staff spear-headed, the colours of the regiment are gracefully suspended down each side of the tablet; whilst from the right corner, slung by the chin stay, or scales, is an officer's military cap, with tuft on the crown; a flowing sash and the new regulation sword, "cut and thrust," hang downwards. The corresponding side exhibits a firelock with bayonet fixed, a cartridge pouch, and a bugle, the former pendent by the belt, and the latter by a twisted cord. Below this, on a table, is displayed an imperial crown and a foliated wreath, emblematical of victory, having in the back-ground two crossed firelocks with bayonets fixed. Around the wreath is thrown a pall, the folds of which extend along the base of this portion of the design, as admonitory of the great sacrifice of human life by which the crowning victory and enlaurelled garland were achieved. Within the wreath is incribed, in raised gold letters,

ALIWAL.
SUBRAON.
SUTLEJ.

The main part of the tablet bears the following inscription in Roman characters :—

Sacred to the memory of the brave !
Captain C. E. D. Warren,
Captain Thomas Smart,
Lieutenant R. N. Clarke,
Adjutant W. Dunning,
Of the 53rd or Shropshire Regiment,
Who were killed on the 10th February, 1846,
In the glorious battle of
Subraon,
Also to the memory of
The under-named non-commissioned officers and
privates of the above regiment,
Who fell in the above triumphant action,
As well as assisted in that of
Aliwal,
And the relief of Loodhiana on the Sutlej.

(Then follows the names of 1 colour Sergeant, 7 Corporals, and 53 Privates; and on the base is inscribed in capitals)—

This Memorial was erected by
The Officers of her Majesty's 53rd or Shropshire Regiment,
Who served in these actions,
In testimony of deep regret for their lost friends,
their brother officers, and the gallant
Soldiers of the corps.

The steeple is one hundred and fifty feet in height, and contains a full and melodius peal of twelve bells, cast in 1798, by Mears, of London, the weight of the tenor is two tons one hundred weight, and measures sixteen feet six inches in circumference at the mouth: the tone is remarkably fine. The balcony beneath the dome commands a beautiful prospect of the town and distant country.

St. Chad's is considered the principal church of the town; it is used on all public occasions, and is the place where the Archdeacon holds his visitations and probate court.

A lecture is delivered here every Thursday, from a bequest of the late James Phillips, Esq. of London, who, by his will, dated 1661, devises, after the death of his wife, the rents of his property in Three Crown Court, Southwark, unto the Mayor and Aldermen of this town, for that purpose; and also for a lecture in the parish churches of Oswestry, Ellesmere, and Whitchurch. This property now produces a good revenue, and gives to each of the lecturers a stipend of fifty guineas per annum, leaving a considerable surplus for the purchase of flannel, &c. to the poor of the above-named places. By the Municipal Act, the distribution of the proceeds of the estate rests with the Trustees of the Shrewsbury Borough Charities.

The living is a Vicarage, in the gift of the Crown, being endowed in 1674 by the benefaction of Nathaniel Tench, Esq. with the "Tythes of corn and hay of the grange of Crow Meole," which originally belonged to the church, but had become alienated. In commemoration of this gift, the testator directed that a sermon should be annually preached by the Vicar on the 6th of June.

On the east side of the church is a spacious cemetery.

The parish comprises nearly one half of the town, and extends several miles into the country, having two chapels of ease,—St. George's, (Frankwell,) and Bicton, three miles distant, and another is proposed to be erected near Calcott.

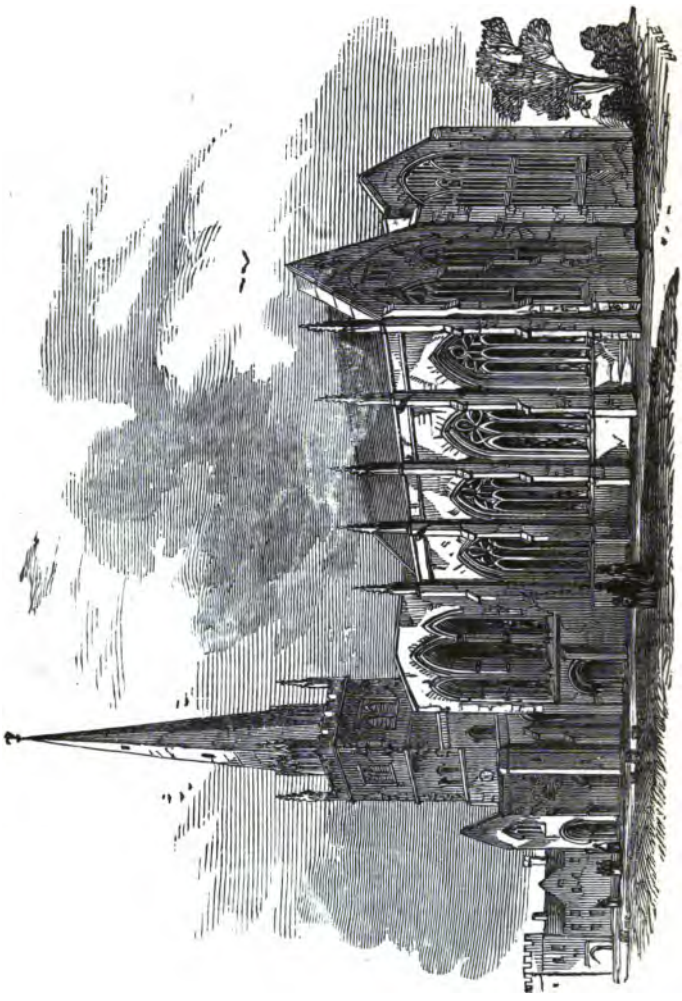
SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

stands on a commanding situation, nearly one hundred feet above the level of the river, on the north-eastern side of the town, and is one of the most interesting ecclesiastical edifices in the county, displaying in its construction almost every variety of ancient architecture, and affording to the antiquary and man of taste a rich and unique field for observation.

It is a cruciform building, consisting of a nave, side aisles, transepts, spacious chancel, two chantry chapels, and a lofty spire steeple.

In common with our early churches we have no opportunity of ascertaining the precise date of its erection on written testimony. The probable period of foundation has been stated, page 40; the renovation and subsequent addition is therefore presumptive, and our decision must be governed by analogy of style with other edifices, whose origin is authenticated.

There will be little difficulty in appropriating the ancient portions of this building to distinct ages, if we except the task of assigning a correct criteria to the curious mixture displayed in the columns which support the semicircular arches of the nave, where the Norman and pointed styles are singularly blended together, the union of which will afford matter of interesting speculation to the experienced antiquary.



William of Malmesbury has related an anecdote of the pious Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester (from 1062 to 1095) praying, as was his custom when he passed this way, on his route to Chester, in the *wooden Church of St. Peter*, in this town, and of the "citizens asking him why he preferred it to the church which they called St. Mary's;"—a question we may reasonably conclude as shewing this was then, in their opinion, from some circumstance, a church of no little consequence.

The enlarged views of improvement manifested by the Normans in the arts, caused the restoration of many important churches in much less time than a century after they had obtained the conquest of our island.

St. Mary's, no doubt, from its antiquity, required restoration, and excited their early attention; but although destitute of positive data, as before stated, from whence to ascribe a period to its re-edification, the various alterations plainly evident in several parts of the fabric will easily be discovered by the critical eye of the architectural antiquary.

It may be mentioned that three distinct styles are apparent,—the Anglo-Norman of the 12th century, in the basement of the tower, nave, transepts, and doorways; the early lancet style in the windows of the transepts and chancel; the pointed and obtuse arch of the 15th and 16th century in the side aisles, clere-story, chantry, chapels, &c.

These shall be carefully examined by analysis, and the predominant features appropriated with caution to their respective periods.

The greater part of a new structure, it is therefore conjectured, was raised on the site of a previous Saxon building,

probably early in the reign of Henry I. This is evident from the plain circular windows in the massive basement of the tower, which, like the lower portion of the entire building, is of red stone, and flanked by broad flat buttresses, similar to those on the lower part of the Abbey tower.

The tower of St. Mary's originally was probable not higher than the part composed of red stone, and was terminated like the generality of Saxon or Norman towers, by a plain parapet.

The struggle between the Norman and pointed styles sometimes occasioned incongruous arches, and we may attribute the rude pointed doorway of the tower having an internal arch nearly triangular, to the reign of Stephen.

THE SOUTH PORCH of the nave is of the early Norman era, the outward arch semicircular, having zigzag mouldings issuing from clustered columns, and an inner rib, obtusely pointed; the windows on each side are curious, as early specimens of the rudiments of the mullioned window, introduced about the time of Stephen; the arches of these windows rest on short thick columns, and are bisected into two lights by a similar pillar as a mullion, the capitals of which are all different; in the apex is a quatrefoil, one of the simplest and most ancient kind of ornaments.

The ceiling of the porch is also an example of the most ancient kind of groined vault, having neither boss nor ornament; above this is a chamber (entered from the church by a newel staircase), and lighted by a pointed window. This now forms a depository for the parochial records.

The inner doorway of the porch is a semicircular arch, enriched with chevron, lozenge, and foliated mouldings.

That on the north side of the nave is similar in style; and the doorways (now closed) in the north and south transepts are elegant specimens of the style which prevailed from the Conquest to the time of Henry I.; the latter is decorated with alternate lozenge panels filled with an embossed flower.

THE NORTH PORCH was rebuilt in 1834, over the door is the inscription from the former wooden porch taken down in 1801.

A progressive movement of refinement and beauty took place in the science of architecture during the reign of Henry III. when the heavy Norman was succeeded by the slender lancet arch and its attendant ornaments. The transepts of this church are fine specimens of this transition of the styles, the north and south ends of which are terminated by beautifully proportioned triple lancet windows, enriched with slender shafts and mouldings.

About the close of the 15th century, a great stateliness of character and ornamental arrangement became the prevailing form of architectural display, and the general features of the building were altered to the fashionable style.

The walls of the side aisles previous to this time were much lower, which is indicated by a slope in the stone work at the west end, and a pier at the south-west, on which the roof originally rested. When the walls were raised, three mullioned windows were substituted on each side for round-headed lights, which narrowed towards the exterior surface of the wall, similar, no doubt, to that still remaining at the west end.

The nave shortly afterwards received the addition of a clere-story, lighted by a range of short windows with ob-

tusely pointed arches, extending the whole length of the nave and chancel.

To render these important alterations of the fabric complete, the low massy tower was raised, and large double pointed windows were placed on each side, and the whole surmounted with an embattled parapet and pinnacles, which (being much decayed) were judiciously restored in 1816. From this tower rises an octagonal spire of noble proportions, which may be ranked as equal in height to the *third loftiest spire* in the kingdom, and forms an interesting and prominent object from every part of the rich and beautiful scenery which surrounds the town.

The dimensions, as taken at the last repair in 1818, are —tower, 78 feet 4 inches; spire, to the top of vane, 141 feet 10 inches; total height, 220 feet 2 inches.

The chapel, south of the chancel, has a remarkably lofty roof, and on the south side four handsome pointed windows of Henry the Sixth's time; each window is divided by a buttress, on which rests a crocketed pinnacle. The eastern end of this building was originally finished by a large window, but within its space two lofty round-headed lights, with singular canopies in the debased style, prevalent about the reign of Elizabeth, have been inserted.

The chancel is terminated by a large window, divided by a transom into two tiers, and bisected by mullions into eight lights each, the apex being ramified into inelegant tracery, introduced in repairing the damage which this window, (and that alluded to in the above chapel) sustained during an extreme tempest in 1579.

THE INTERIOR

of this church is strikingly noble. The nave is separated from the side aisles by *four semicircular arches, resting on elegant clustered columns*, with capitals decorated with foliage of different devices, from the rudest to the richest design. The mouldings of these arches have bolder projections, but are less massive than those of the early Norman, and more delicately finished, and although the mouldings on the shafts are peculiar to the earliest pointed style, they happily harmonize with the semicircular arches, and were probably additions to the thick heavy columns of the original Norman building, engrafted in their present form, to assimilate with other portions of the structure altered in the 13th century.

At the eastern extremity of each side aisle, opening to the transepts, is a semicircular arch, resting on thick round pillars, with a regular base and indented capital, ornamented with sculpture of the earliest Norman era, similar arches lead to the chantry chapels. These arches, from their general style, are evidently the oldest part of the fabric, and we may venture to ascribe them to a period not later than the Conquest. In removing the accumulations of colouring and plaster from the walls and arches of this part, in 1828, the *distinguishing marks* of the *operative masons* employed in working the stones were discovered, and still are to be seen, being the same as those now used.*

* About the close of the 12th century, companies of masons, designers, or architects, as well as workmen, were incorporated under the especial patronage of the Pope, and associated together as a fraternity of free and accepted masons, under certain regulations and peculiar privileges.

The choir and transepts are divided by three fine bold pointed arches, rising from piers similar to those described in the nave.

The ceiling of the nave is of oak, the intersections of the beams being formed into panels richly decorated with ornamented quatrefoils and foliage, carved bosses, flowers, grotesque figures, &c. A beautiful cornice of vine branches, grapes interspersed with masks, are placed round the walls beneath the roof. The whole is in excellent preservation, and supposed to be one of the finest specimens of the ancient fretted ceiling in the kingdom.

At the west end of the nave is a handsome stone screen, divided into three compartments, formed by as many obtusely pointed arches, and divided by buttresses of two stories, highly decorated with reticulated divisions, containing an open flower in relief: around the inner recesses of the arches are the following inscriptions:—

Venite Domino exultemus
Rupi salutis jubilemus
Jehobam hymnis concinamus
Et grates illi persolvamus—Halleujah.

Jehobam virgines laudate
Senes et pueri celebrate
Psalmis ecclesia sanctorum
Extollat Dominium Dominorum.

Laudate carminis clamore
Laudate buccinae clangore
Laudate organo sonoro
Laudate cymbalis et choro.

Above is a series of smaller arches similar in style, having cinque-foil heads, and filled with the like reticulated

divisions and ornament, each of the arches being divided by a small plain buttress; the string course is charged with elaborately carved heads of angels, pateras, &c. and the spandrils of the several arches throughout are enriched with elegant and varied foliage, exquisitely sculptured. The whole forming a prominent and imposing feature to the main entrance of the nave, and will be a permanent monument of the good taste and munificence of the donor, the Rev. W. G. Rowland, M.A. It was designed by and executed under the superintendence of Mr. John Carline, of this town, and is a work creditable to his professional abilities.

Above this, rises in its original beauty and freshness, the stately front of the organ, made by the celebrated builders, John Harries and John Byfield, in 1729. This noble instrument, by the munificence of the incumbent, was in 1847 restored in all essential points, and received those modern improvements and additions which the ingenious and able organ builders of our day have succeeded in rendering worthy of adoption; Messrs. Gray and Davison, of London, were engaged, and their skill has been developed in a manner creditable to themselves, and deserving of the instrument on which it has been employed.

THE CHANCEL is elevated above the church by a double ascent, and the ceiling, like that of both the transepts, is excellently painted, but panelled in a style somewhat similar to that of the nave, and adorned with some of the rich fret work removed from the wreck of the churches of St. Chad and St. Alkmund.

The large eastern window contains the truly splendid glass that adorned the chancel of Old St. Chad's Church,

having escaped the destruction that befel the other parts of the fabric, and was presented to this parish in 1791, by the trustees for rebuilding the new church; and whilst a more appropriate situation could not have been selected, it is a rare occurrence of so brittle a substance having escaped the disasters of at least five centuries. Many of the figures having become displaced from their change of situation, a re-arrangement was undertaken in 1837, and to complete the genealogical line, other figures have been added, under the direction, and at the expense of the minister, by the able hands of Mr. D. Evans, the old and new portions most happily unite, and display both in colour, execution and effect, a collection of stained glass rarely to be excelled.

It represents a favourite subject of the old masters, THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST, from the root of Jesse. The patriarch occupies the breadth of three bays of the window, being depicted as reclining in a gentle sleep, with his head resting upon an embroidered pillow, and supported on his right hand. From his loins the promised stem ascends upwards, each circling limb enclosing within its luxuriant intersections, a KING or PROPHET immediately connected with the series from which the Saviour of the world, as the son of David sprang.

At the base of the window, (to the right of the spectator) is represented kneeling beneath foliated tabernacles, Sir Owen de Charleton; (having on his surcoat and banner, a Lion rampant gules), Sir John, his brother; and the great Sir John, father of the two; each being vested in the hawberk, and from the square banners which they hold in their right hand, appear to have been knight's bannerets.—Also King Edward III.—the Virgin and infant;—Lady Hawise

Gadarn, the heiress of Powis, (born in 1291, and married to the first Sir John, 4th Edw. II);—and the two wives of the sons.

Above is the figure of Jesse, and immediately over, in the four centre lights, are sixteen kings of Judah, on each side of Jesse are the five old prophets, and above these, the four greater prophets, the two lateral divisions of the upper tier having the remainder of the prophets. In the whole there are 46 figures.

The KINGS occupy the four central divisions, and are enclosed within an oval compartment, and depicted as seated upon an ancient throne, which rests on a small pointed arch, above is a pediment containing the name. Each respectively bears a sceptre, or sword, excepting David who has the insignia of a harp, and holds in his left hand a "Wrest," or tuning hammer to wind up the strings of the instrument.

All the Kings, except those situated above the last named Monarch, are peculiarly seated with their left leg resting upon the right knee, and it may be also remarked, that alternate series of them have ermine tippets, which extend to the top of the shoulder, while those in the other portions, have a neck-lace, their fingers clasping a jewel, or such like ornament;—a red rose being introduced on either side of the whole of the figures, seemingly to relieve the body of blue which forms the back ground;—a striking instance of the knowledge which the ancient masters possessed of the effect of colour.

The PROPHETS, who were historians, or annalists of the kings, appear chiefly habited in loose drapery, those in the side divisions are bare-headed, the others are covered by a

cap. One hand grasps a portion of the vine, while the other is uplifted, and pointing upwards, as if in holy testimony of that message they had spoken to kings and people, concerning the "tender plant," and to the termination of that "*branch*," which should spring from the "root of Jesse," and finally become the desire of all nations, in the fulfilment of the Promise, "that the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

In the apex is the *Nativity* and the *Crucifixion*, and the ground of the whole is varied and exquisitely vivid, on which the clusters of grapes and the bright verdure of the vine leaves are displayed with great effect.

From the following translation of an inscription at the base

"Pray for Monsieur John de Charlton, who caused this glazing to be made, and for Dame Hawise his companion."

it is presumed to have been originally given to the church of the Franciscan, or Grey Friars in this town, to which Sir John and his wife were great benefactors, as well from the circumstance, that on the shoulders of one of the lions is depicted a golden eagle displayed,—a mark of cadency assumed from the Royal House of Owain Gwynnedd; and further, that the word *campagne* for wife has an appearance of royalty, to which the Lady Hawise had pretensions as representative of the ancient kings and princes of Powis.

The warrior with the lion alone, denotes the Great Sir John de Charleton, lord of Powis, and that with the label, his eldest Son John;—the other with the eagle, was probably another son Owen, named perhaps after his grandfather, Owen de la pole. Hawise Gadarn married as before stated, (1311), her sons could not have arrived at knighthood much

before 1352, and Sir John, her husband, dying in 1353,—the glass must have been set up between these two dates, for that he was alive at the time is evident, from the request to pray for *him*, and not for *his soul*. This period is also confirmed by the figure of Edward III. and the regal state habit of King David, being in the style then prevailing.

The *Altar Screen* is composed of a series of ancient panels, within which is inscribed, upon a gold ground, the Decalogue, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed, in richly illuminated characters, by Mr. Bowen.

In this Chancel the Masters and Scholars of the Royal Free Grammar School attend Divine Service on Sundays, morning and afternoon.

On the north side of the altar is a beautiful triple lancet window, with arches remarkably acute, and resting on isolated columns, whose capitals are adorned with elegant foliage, &c. The window is filled with fourteen subjects of stained glass, comprising a series of events, or miracles in the life of ST. BERNARD. The drawing is remarkably correct, and the draperies very beautiful, both in their folds and damasked patterns, the designs are not unworthy of the school of *Albert Durer*, to whom they are attributed. The ruby, blue and amber colouring is splendid, and the velvet and damask dresses, gorgeous, and in design, freedom of drawing, depth and extraordinary perspective scarcely to be surpassed.

This glass was brought from the vaults of the church of St. Severin at Cologne, where it was hid, having been preserved from the desecration of the great Abbey of Altenburg. The period of its execution is the 16th century.

Bernard was born in 1091, and much distinguished in the age in which he lived; he was the last recognised father of the church. A brief review of the legends represented is as follows:—commencing at the top of the left hand light, *Bernard Reaping*, the holy man not being able to reap the corn so as to keep up with his fellow labourers, his superior gave him other work, but praying to God for ability he soon equalled the best hands.

Bernard healing a diseased woman in the presence of a Bishop; she appears resting on a pallet borne by two men.

The benefit of Clergy extended to a Criminal.—The figures of the executioner and the bound malefactor are apparent; in the distance are the instruments of expiation. The incident is thus explained; Bernard having occasion to visit the Count of Champagne, he met a criminal on his way to execution, and seizing the halter by which he was led, took him to the Count. The latter met him with all deference, and having expressed surprise at seeing him thus engaged, Bernard replied, "think not that I would suffer so great a crime to remain unpunished:—you were about to make him taste the pains of death for a moment, but I will keep him in continual chastisement for many years;" whereupon he drew off his cowl, and threw it over the criminal, whom he took with him to his monastery. Criminals were often thus similarly released and protected by the intercession of some venerable monk.

In the centre light, at the top.—*Bernard visiting his friend Guigo*, Prior of the Great Chartreuse, the latter appears astonished at seeing him use a fine bridle, and tells him of it. The saint answered that "he had never taken notice either of the bridle, or saddle."

The next subject represents the admission of Bernard's Sister Humbeline, as a nun, or the conversion of Aloide, duchess of Lorraine, sister of the Emperor Lothaire.

Bernard on horseback, before whom a husbandman is kneeling.

The celebration of the mass, and the chastisement of an offender.—*Bernard healing the blind.* The first occasion which called forth his zeal was a dissension between the Archbishop and Citizens of Rheims, whom he reconciled, confirming his words by the miraculous cure of a boy who was deaf, blind and dumb. At the right, he is crossing a river in a boat; on the opposite shore a crowd of persons expect his arrival.

Bernard Reading with five Monks in their stalls, in front of the latter, angels are kneeling, as listening to the service.

Right-hand light.—*The Emperor* in the act of obeisance to Bernard.—The Abbot to encourage learning was solicitious to furnish all his monasteries with libraries. He appears in this subject as distributing books in the presence of the Pope, and Emperor, a Cardinal, a Bishop and others.

Bernard afflicted with sickness, on the right he is returning thanks for his recovery, when he went to Clairvaux, and reconciled some contending parties.

Bernard giving audience to an Abbot, attended by Monks, at the side workmen re-building, or repairing a church.

THE NORTH TRANSEPT

has an imposing effect on entering the Church from the

eastern door* through a porch which was once a chantry chapel, and connected with the transept by a fine Norman arch.

The triple windows of this and the corresponding transept are filled with small full length figures in stained glass, bearing their respective insignia, and placed within ovals of mosaic patterns. The centre of the middle light has the arms of George the III. with an obituary inscription. Above these is the figure of the Virgin Mary, and below, St. Andrew. The dexter lancet contains, St. Philip, St. Bartholomew, and St. James the Son of Zebedee; and the sinister St. Simon, St. Thomas, and St. Matthias. At the base is inscribed, IOANNES BRICKDALE BLAKEWAY, A.M. HUJUS ECCLESIÆ INDEX OFFICIALIS ET MINISTER INSIGNIA REGIA P. C. ANNO MDCCCXX. RELIQUAM FENESTRÆ PARTEM DXORNAVIT EJUS VIDUA M. E. B. ANNO MDCCCXXIX.

The space below is occupied by three elegant specimens of monumental sculptor, designed by Mr. Carline; and at the north eastern angle is an octangular turret, in which a small door way opens to a staircase leading to a chamber, formerly, no doubt, a chantry.

The lancet window westward, contains a fine figure of the tutelar Saint of the Church, crowned, and bearing the infant Jesus, with her symbol the lily; it is of the richest munich glass.

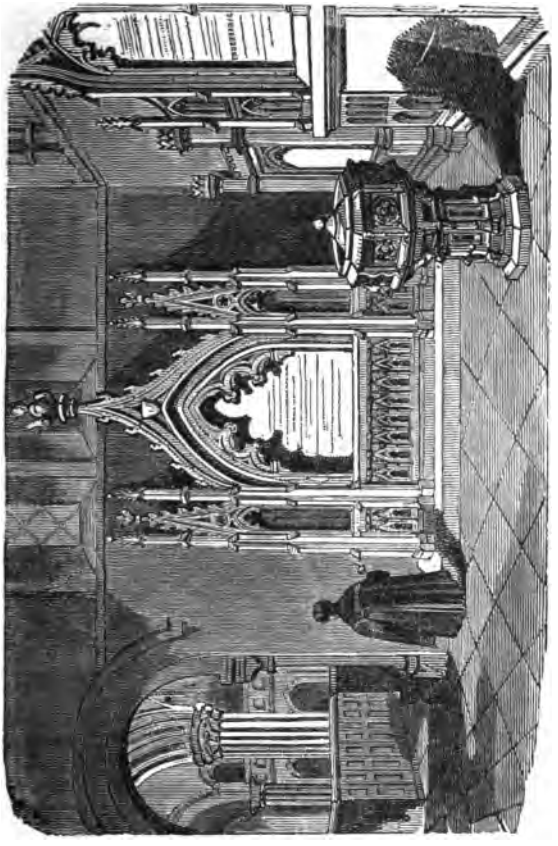
* This is now a principal entrance; the jambs of the door-way are in the debased style prevalent during the last century, and the obtuse arch seems originally to have formed the head of a window.

THE NORTH TRANSEPT.

Against the west wall is a handsome free-stone

Monument

TO THE LATE REV. J. B. BLAKEWAY,



which for elegance of design, and beauty of execution, has, perhaps, rarely been surpassed in modern times. It was

designed by Mr. Carline, of this town, and is 12 feet in length, and 16 feet in height, being divided into three compartments by clustered buttresses, which sustain richly crocketted pinnacles. The centre one comprises a large pointed arch, cusped, canopied, and crocketted, the back is deeply recessed, and contains the following inscription;

To the Memory of the Reverend
JOHN BRICKDALE BLAKEWAY, M. A. F. A. S.
Thirty-one years Ordinary and Official
And Thirty-two years Minister of this Parish,
This Monument is erected
By the Voluntary Subscription of his Parishioners,
As a tribute of respect for his talents,
Esteem for his virtues,
And gratitude for his long and faithful services
As their Friend and Pastor.
He died the tenth day of March, MDCCCXXVI.
Aged 60 years.

On each side of the above is an elegant niche with a cinquefoil head, octagonal back, and groined ceiling. These niches are surmounted by acute-angled crocketted canopies formed of deep mouldings; and resting on the head of each within the canopy is a cinquefoil within a circle. In a similar situation in the centre division is a shield containing the following arms:—Argent, on a bend engrailed sable, three bezants; impaling argent, a fess vaire between three unicorns passant, gules.

The above rest on an altar tomb, the front of which is divided into twelve small niches with trefoil heads. These are separated by small buttresses, with crocketted canopies and pinnacles.

Mr. Blakeway, as an author, was known only to the literary world previously to 1821 by a few sermons, controversial tracts, and critical notes in Malone's edition of Boswell's Life of Johnson. His name, however, will be immortalized in the valuable History of Shrewsbury which he commenced in 1820, with the Venerable Archdeacon Owen, and just lived to see the general history and ecclesiastical portions published in two quarto volumes. He likewise shewed much attention to the antiquities of his native county, and the valuable mass of manuscripts he left behind in illustration of its genealogical and topographical history remain as a proof of his industry, His remains were interred on the right of the west entrance to the cemetery.

As a preacher Mr. Blakeway was admired for his forcible illustration of holy writ, and the valuable admonitions clothed in the language of affection which his discourses generally contained, whilst his devoutness in the performace of the sacred duties of the sanctuary must have impressed their importance on all who heard them.

Eastward of this transept is

THE BAPTISTERY,

formerly the chapel of St. Catharine. THE ANCIENT FONT stands in the centre, and is handsome. The bason is octangular, each side having an ornamental quatrefoil, in the centre of which is a double rose. The angles have been adorned with busts of angels bearing shields, and the pedestal is pierced into gothic arches, divided by small shelving buttresses.

In the east gable is a triangular window, with a trefoil in the intrado of each arch, the mouldings of which are

deeply recessed. It contains an old and curious representation of the second Advent. The Great Judge appears in an aureole of clouds, with an extended sword on the left. Underneath, several small groups shew the blessed and the wicked. The archfiend is depicted in the unique figure of a blue boar, having his hind quarters of different hues, one leg red, and the other green. On the right, an angel is bearing a redeemed soul in the form of an infant.

In an early anglo Norman light below, is the *Regina Cœli* in a devotional posture, surrounded with cherubs bearing crowns, &c.

A mullioned window of three lights shews THE CRUCIFIXION ON MOUNT CALVARY. The Saviour is suspended on the cross, on either hand of whom are the malefactors. At the foot of the tree, the mother of Jesus, her sister and Mary Magdalene are kneeling; the former appears supported by John. Other accessaries to the subject comprise soldiers disputing, and two of the guard on horseback, bearing the reed, sponge and spear. In the distance is a view of the city. At the base is a Saint praying, Judas in the midst of a crowd, betraying his master with a kiss, and St. Lambert, Bishop of Utretch and Martyr. In the apex is a figure of Christ, and also of St. Luke and St. John writing their gospels.

ADMIRAL BENBOW'S MONUMENT.

This beautiful monument in honour of a gallant Salopian, rests on two brackets, which support a base forming the table of the design, on which is the following inscription, in Roman characters.

Erected by public subscription, to commemorate the
Services of John Benbow, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the Blue,
A skilful and daring seaman,
Whose heroic exploits long rendered him the boast of the
British Navy,
And still point him out as the Nelson of his times.
He was born at Coton Hill, in this parish, and died at
Kingston, in Jamaica,
November 4th, 1702, aged 51 years,
Of wounds received in his memorable action,
With a French Squadron, off Carthagenia, in the
West Indies,
Fought on the 19th, and five following days, of August,
In that year.

Above this, and between two pilasters, supporting a pediment, with a small shield in the centre, is a beautiful representation, in *basso relievo*, of the celebrated "Benbow Frigate," in full chase of the enemy, and pouring a broadside into another vessel, the stern of which is visible, amid clouds of smoke in the distance; the foam of the ocean, and other minute details, being cut with extraordinary fidelity and effect Over this rises a pyramid of black marble, on which is a fine medallion bust of the Admiral in *alto relievo* —considered to be an excellent likeness, as taken from the portrait presented by Mrs. Hind, sister of the Admiral, to the Corporation of Shrewsbury.

The sail of a ship, supported by a yard-arm, appears gracefully suspended over the bust, the lower portion of which, on one side, being entwined round the fluke of an anchor, the corresponding one having a cannon, with the muzzle resting on a cluster of balls. The whole is elegantly wrought in fine statuary marble, and reflects infinite credit

on the sculptor, John Evan Thomas, Esq. F.S.A. of London, a pupil of the celebrated Chantrey.

Under the above window is a monumental slab of alabaster, which formerly rested on a tomb within the low pointed arch. It shows two incised figures in the attitude of devotion, intended to represent Nicholas Stafford and his wife Katherine. The former was bailiff of the town in 1458, and died in 1471, and are supposed to have been the founders of the Chantry. The door eastward leads to the vestry, the windows of which are glazed with roundels of German glass, containing elegantly painted subjects, chiefly from holy writ.

The clerestory windows of the chancel contain beautiful full length figures of angels bearing shields, scrolls, musical instruments, &c.

SOUTH TRANSEPT.

In the large window are figures of our Saviour, St. James the son of Alpheus, and St. Thaddeus; in the dexter compartment are those of St. Matthew, St. Paul, and St. Mark; and in the sinister, St. John the Evangelist, St. Peter, and St. Luke. Underneath is "GULIELMUS GORSUCH ROWLAND, A. M. HUJUS ECCLESIÆ JUDEX OFFICIALIS ET MINISTER HANC FENESTRAM FACIENDAM CURAVIT ANNO 1829.

The windows of this and the north transept were executed by Mr. D. Evans, of Shrewsbury.

Below is a bold composition of monumental architecture, designed by Mr. Carline, consisting of three acute-angled crocketted canopies, crowned with a finial. The labels of the arches are enriched with foliage, and the interior sweep

fashioned in the ogee manner. From the lateral piers, and between each division of the arches, springs an elegant crocketted pinnacle pannelled, and finished by an open flower.

Two of these commemorate members of the family of LLOYD, and the other MRS. BUTLER, relict of the late BISHOP BUTLER.

In the western lancets are six shields of armorial bearings, comprising those of King Edw. VI, founder of Shrewsbury School, the see of Lichfield impaling Butler,—and those of the marriages of the families of Butler, Lloyd, and Bather.

From the south transept a fine Norman arch opens to the

TRINITY CHAPEL,

which also has a communication with the chancel by two bold arches, in the pointed style.

This building (43 feet by 29) was at first of smaller dimensions, as is evident from two lancet windows (beneath which are two very early loop holes) in the wall next to the south aisle. Immediately above the shelving portion still visible of the roof of the original chapel is a Norman wheel window, once no doubt filled with tracery.

The enlargement was effected by the Draper's Company soon after their incorporation in 1461, having therein a guild or fraternity to the Holy Trinity. Within the south wall is the sedilia formerly used by the officiating priests, and the remains of a piscina and locker, once overspread with elegant canopies. It was repaired in 1582, for the use of the Scholars of King Edward's School, and where they

continued to assemble for daily prayers until the school chapel was consecrated in 1617, and was in more later years used as a parochial school. The lofty arches being then walled up. The roof is open and is in progress to be decorated.

Under the large pointed arch is an altar tomb, the sides of which are divided by small buttresses in ornamental niches of the early decorated style. Above is a mutilated recumbent figure of a cross-legged knight in linked armour, supposed to represent one of the LEYBURNES LORDS OF BERWICK in this parish, and who died about the middle of the 14th century. The grave below was opened in 1816, and was composed of wrought masonry, when, after a little loose rubbish had been removed, some leg and thigh bones were discovered. On digging about three feet lower to the bottom of the tomb, a skeleton was found wrapped in leather, but without a head. This is conjectured to be the skeleton of Thomas Percy, Earl of Worcester, who was beheaded after the battle of Shrewsbury, and his head sent to London, while his body found an asylum in the tomb of a family which had become extinct.

BISHOP BUTLER'S MONUMENT

is placed against the centre pier at the east end. The site and design were suggested by the late Sir F. Chantrey, but his death happening just at the time the model was completed, the work was entrusted to his successor E. H. Bailey, Esq. R. A. in 1844. It is of white Carrara marble, and displays a full length figure of the prelate in the Episcopal habit, seated in a chair, as in a meditative position,—the head gently resting on the left hand. The cost of this was 800 guineas, exclusive of the pedestal, which is of brown

marble from the Clee-hill, in this County. On the front is inscribed—

SAMVELI BVTLER, S.T.P. R.S.S.
EPISCOPO . LICHFIELDIENSI
PRAESVLI . PIO . DILIGENTI DESIDERATO
PRAECEPTORI . IN . PRIMIS . DOCTO . AC . SOLLERTI
CVIVS FAVSTIS . ADMINISTRATA . CONSILIIS.
SCHOLA . REGIA . SALOPIENSIS
LITERARVM . STVDIIS . LAVDEM . OMNEM . SVPERGRESSA . EST
DISCIPVLI . MVNICIPES . AMICI . ET . FAVTORES . EVIS
VIRO . EGREGIE . MERITO
HONORIS . EXEMPLIQVE . CAVSA . POSVERVNT
A . S . MDCCCXLIV.

On either side of the Bishop's memorial is a large and richly crocketted monument, with pinnacles rising from angular buttresses, and commemorative of JOHN JEUDWINE, Esq. M.A. second master, for 37 years, of Shrewsbury School, and JOSEPH SUTTON, Esq. an eminent Surgeon of this town, in which capacity he served at the siege of Gibraltar. The upper part of the lofty windows above contain most beautiful subjects in stained glass, "CHRIST BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN," from a design by *Overbeck*. The harmony of colour in this is exquisite. Also the "WISE MEN'S OFFERING." At the base of this is inscribed *In honorem Ecclesia hanc fenestram vitro decoravit Daniel Rowland*, 1846.—Each are surmounted by canopies of the richest design.

In the lower portion are remarkably fine full length figures of christian Sovereigns and Emperors.

The two centre windows on the south side contain ancient

glass, the figures in the others are new ;—the restoration of the old and the execution of the later work are fine specimens of Mr. Evans's skill in this art.

1. Eastward, represents John Count Horn before a desk, on which is an open book, he is supported by St. Christopher bearing the infant Jesus on his shoulders, and with his staff, as passing through a river, and St. Catharine with her emblem the wheel, and holding a palm branch. At the base are the armorial bearings of the family of Horn.

2. An Abbot ;—a Priest kneeling at an altar ;—John the Evangelist bearing a chalice, and standing like others of the figures under a canopy. Below are figures of St. Catharine and Barbara.

3. A Count kneeling, supported by John the Baptist, with a lamb imprest on a book, and behind a guardian angel ;—Joseph of Arimathea sustaining the body of Christ ; —a Countess in the attitude of prayer, and attended by St. Anne, mother of the Virgin, whom, and the infant Jesus, she bears in her arms, having also a guardian angel.

4. The Countess Horn in a posture of devotion ; supported by an Abbot bearing a crosier ; and St. James the less with his emblem. Underneath is a continuation of heraldic shields connected with the distinguished personages represented.

The apex of each of the windows is filled with elegant frieze work, the holy lamb, dove, angels, and shields of arms, among the latter is an ancient one of the town of Shrewsbury.

The noble family of Horn had its origin among the illus-

trious in the low countries, and to which William Prince of Orange became related by marriage with his first wife.

Proceeding to the SOUTH AISLE, the first window contains a figure of St. Helena (A. D. 328) founder of the eastern empire, behind her is the cross. A female kneeling, bearing an infant before an open book. The emperor Charlemagne founder of the western empire.

The centre window is in part a continuation of acts in the life of the monk Bernard.—The monk, from illness, is reclining on a couch, among his attendants is a minstrel, whom he is in the act of beating from him, and then recovered.—St. Peter and a family at prayer.—The circumcision of Jesus,—"The excommunication of flies." The Abbey of Foigui being exceedingly haunted by swarms of flies, Bernard excommunicated them, so that they all died, and are seen as being swept out of the church, which malediction became famous to a proverb.—Bernard and a Monk in a snow storm; the former appears as if dictating, the latter holds a paper and pencil.—Bernard preaching from a pulpit before the Pope and Bishops, probably in favour of the second crusade, the clergy standing on either side, and the laity in front.—A Sovereign and his Queen seated on a throne absorbed in grief.—The Crucifixion.

The window westward, displays a fine old representation of the Magi presenting their gifts to the infant Saviour.

In the western lancet is a figure of St. Andrew with his emblem the cross.

THE NORTH AISLE.

A corresponding window to the above has a figure of St.

John the evangelist, arrayed in a robe which exhibits a splendid specimen of the ruby glass of the old masters, the hem of the garment is studded with pearls.

In the next window is a series of Episcopal and Abbatical figures. The middle window comprises nine very elegant subjects. A devotional figure, with St. John the Baptist in the back-ground, (the border arabesque.)—Baalam and the Angel standing in the way.—A Burgomaster at prayer, attended by a Bishop.—The Virgin pierced with the seven swords of sorrow, &c.—The Angel appearing to the shepherds.—The disciples washing one another's feet.—A female attended by St. Margaret.—A Bishop kneeling, his downcast looks betoken shame, or sorrow; in the back-ground is the celebration of a marriage.—A Burgomaster's wife at devotion, supported by St. Catharine. In the apex St. Andrew, St. Paul, St. John, and St. Barnabas. At the base a Dutch inscription denotes the donor.

In the third window is St. Sebastian;—A Priest with a chalice; and a cardinal extracting a thorn from a lion's paw.

The windows of the south porch are filled with ancient roundels of German glass, the subjects being principally from the book of Tobit and other apocryphal writers.

This church, in 1232, was the scene of an assemblage of legates, convened by command of the Pope to hear charges which had been preferred against Llewelyn for repeated infractions of treaties. This negociation was at length left to six referees on the part of King Henry III. and four on that of the Welsh Prince, by which peace was maintained for a season.

When Charles the First visited this town in 1642, he

took "a protestation and the sacrament upon it to defend the Protestant religion established by Queen Elizabeth and his royal father," which solemn scene, it is supposed, took place within this edifice, being the parish church of the mansion in which he was sojourning. King James the Second attended divine service here in 1687, after which he exercised the royal gift of healing by touching many persons for the king's evil.

THE MONUMENTS of particular interest having been already noticed in their proper situations, it need only be remarked that there are mural tablets commemorative of individuals connected with the families of LYSTER, LLOYD (of Rug, &c.), MORHALL, BLAKEWAY, &c. on the walls of the chancel, and several other memorials in the nave, transepts, and chancel; which the extended description of this church, and the confined limits of the present work, will not permit further to enumerate.

The exterior length of the building from east to west is 172 feet; the interior 136 feet; breadth (including side aisles) 54 feet; transepts, N. to S. 90 feet.

The tower contains a peal of ten bells, the harmony of which, it is considered, cannot be excelled by that of any peal in the kingdom: weight of tenor 21 cwt. 2 qrs. 17 lbs.

On the west wall of the steeple is an inscription to the memory of Thomas Cadman, who lost his life in a bold attempt to descend from the top of the spire by means of a rope, which he had fixed to it and brought down to a tree in the Gay meadow, on the other side of the river Severn. He fell near the Water-lane gate, Feb. 2, 1739, aged 28, owing, as the epitaph records, to

"A faulty cord being drawn too tight."

The parish of Saint Mary extends several miles in detached parts of the country, having within its boundaries five chapels of ease, viz. Albrighton, Astley, Berwick, Clive, and St. Michael's (Castle-foregate.)

The church was formerly a royal peculiar, and the official court has still probate of all wills arising within the parish. The living is a perpetual curacy, and was, previously to the late municipal act, in the presentation of the Corporation of Shrewsbury; and in the choice of a minister, the son of a burgess, who has been educated at the royal free grammar school, or (in case there be no burgess's son of that description) one born in the parish of Chirbury, with a qualification similar to the foregoing, is to have the preference. The patronage is now vested by the Lord Chancellor in the following Trustees:—The Lord Bishop of Lichfield, the Earl of Powis, Sir A. V. Corbet, Bart. J. A. LLoyd, Esq. and R. A. Slaney, Esq. The qualification for the minister remains as before.

SAINT ALKMUND'S CHURCH

is situate a short distance from St. Mary's, and its cemetery adjoins that of St. Julian's.

The fine old cruciform church of this parish was inconsiderately destroyed in 1794, under a mistaken apprehension of its stability. The present building, with the exception of the tower and spire, which fortunately escaped the fate of the old church, was opened for divine service Nov. 8, 1795, at a cost of rather more than £3000.

The new structure is of Grinshill stone, and in the style called modern gothic, having six lofty pointed windows on each side, filled with slender mullions of cast-iron; between the windows are graduated buttresses. It extends to the extreme western face of the old tower, by which the height, form and proportion of the latter is much impaired.

The interior consists of a plain area with a flat ceiling, and although handsomely fitted up, and the general effect pleasing, yet it is not in strict conformity with the style adopted for the building. It is 82 feet long by 44 feet wide, with a small chancel, terminated by a pointed window filled with enamelled glass, emblematical of "EVANGELICAL FAITH," depicted in the character of a female figure in the attitude of kneeling upon a cross, with her arms extended, and eyes elevated towards a celestial crown which appears in the opening clouds. The countenance has an interesting expression of adoration, and the motto, "Be thou faithful unto death," &c. is inscribed on an open volume. The window was painted by the elder Egginton, and cost 200 guineas.

At the west end is a capacious gallery, containing a small fine-toned organ by Gray, of London, erected by a subscription in 1823, and enlarged in 1847.

The principal entrance to the church is in the base of the tower, under a Tudor arch inclosed within a square head, the spandrils having a plain trefoil, on either side of which are niches, most barbarously repaired in 1825; above is a bold mullioned window of four lights, in the style of the sixteenth century, early in which the tower and spire were probably built. In this window are two ancient escutcheons in stained glass, displaying England and

France quarterly, and the arms of Richard Sampson, Bishop of Lichfield, and Lord President of the Marches from 1543 to 1548.

The tower is finely proportioned, being flanked with double buttresses gradually diminishing, these until 1842, terminated with a crocketted pinnacle, and an open parapet of pointed arches also surrounded the base of the spire, which, though not remarkable for height, is considered by persons of good taste " to posess singular elegance of form." The tower contains eight musical bells, recast in 1813, and is 70 feet high, the spire 114, making a total of 184 feet from the ground.

In a vault beneath this church are interred the remains of Thomas Jones, Esq. who died in 1642. He was six times bailiff, and the FIRST MAYOR OF SHREWBURY; also those of Sir Thomas Jones, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, who died 1692, to whom and other members of this ancient Shropshire family are several memorials. Other monumental tablets also relieve the walls of the building.

On the east wall, south side, a tablet of Grecian design commemorates the REV. RICHARD DE COURCY, for nearly 30 years Vicar of this Parish, who was distinguished as well for the eloquence of his pulpit ministrations, as for the piety and fervour of his writings. He died November 4th, 1803, aged 59.—and was a younger branch of the Kinsale family.

The old structure contained many curious brasses and monuments; the former were sold, and the latter dispersed, on its unnecessary demolition.

The living is a vicarage in the gift of the crown. There is a weekly lecture in the church on Wednesday evenings.

SAINT JULIAN'S CHURCH.

The Church dedicated to St. Juliana, stands on an elevated position at the top of Wyle Cop. An Anglo Norman structure formerly occupied its site, which having become ruinous, was taken down in 1749, and the present edifice completed and opened in the following year, from a design by Mr. T. F. Pritchard, of this town.

The means then available, and the comparatively small estimate for the building, necessarily induced red brick as a material, and the adoption of a style possessing little claim to taste. But, probably, this at the time was matter of no consequence, as a range of houses, extending to the middle of the present carriage-way, and a similar row

resting upon them and looking to the cemetery, excluded all prospect of the edifice from the street.

The exterior character however of the southern side was altogether changed in the years 1846 and 47 by the munificence of the late Rev. R. Scott, and now presents an effective architectural appearance. The building is an oblong 83 feet by 48, with a small recess for the chancel. It displays two tiers of windows, five in each, the upper are circular headed, and the lower square, enclosed with panelled pilasters. Between these and at each end of the edifice are stone piers surmounted by a block cornice, on which rest Roman doric pilasters, either extremity of the structure having similar ones coupled. These sustain an architrave, frieze and cornice, the frieze being decorated with triglyphs. Above is a handsome open balustrade, having on each of the pedestals a vase-shaped acroteria. The upper windows are surrounded by a stone architrave, and below each is an elegant fretted console table. The apex of the eastern gable is finished by an octangular pedestal, on which rests a combined scroll, and from this, on a moulded base, springs a cone encircled with foliage. The surface of the walls is covered with John's patent cement.

The chancel (like the church, originally) had projecting eaves; but is now finished by a cornice, having at each angle a cone, foliated with the ivy and acanthus. To assimilate with this, the slanting roof has been removed from the projecting lobby, which, in effect, has isolated the old tower from the body of the building. The basement of the tower is of hard red stone, and of a date far anterior to the superstructure, which is in the style of the early part of the 16th century, and crowned by a handsome embattled para-

pet, and eight lofty pinnacles, restored in 1818, when the masonry of the tower was refaced and repaired. On the southern front, within a niche, is an ancient stone figure, a relic from the former edifice, and supposed to represent St. Juliana the patron Saint. The tower contains a peal of six bells, recast in 1706, and an excellent clock.

The principal entrance is at the south portico, which leads to an ambulatory beneath the organ, on either side of which, are gallery staircases. The interior is neat, possessing an air of solemnity, unusual in the generality of modern churches. Two rows of four Roman doric columns, painted to imitate Sienna marble, support the roof, the bases of which stand on square pedestals of the height of the pewing. The ceiling is coved and adorned with the fret work of the old church. Galleries occupy three sides of the building.

At the west end is an excellent organ, made by Messrs. Gray and Mitchell, of London, erected by a subscription and the sale of a former one built in 1834. It has three complete rows of keys, of the German scale, from C C to F in alt. The summary of pipes is as follows:—Great organ, 516 ; choir organ, 330; swell, 504; pedals, 29; Total, 1379. The instrument was opened December 15th, 1850.

The pulpit is handsome, and belonged to the old church. The altar-piece and furniture of the chancel are in good taste; the former is of wainscot, and presents a Roman Doric basement, supporting Ionic columns and entablature with modillion cornice, from which springs a rich architrave surrounding a Venetian window, in the centre light of which is a figure in stained glass of St. James bearing the Holy Scriptures. The side lights contain the royal arms, and those of the see of Lichfield, impaling Cornwallis.

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In the windows of the south gallery are the armorial bearings of Queen Elizabeth, the family of Bowdler, a fine ancient shield of the town arms, and heads of St. Peter and St. Paul, surmounted by their emblems, the keys and sword. On the north side are the arms of Prince, Bennett, Astley, the Earl of Tankerville, and a figure of St. John.

In the floor of the south aisle is an ancient gravestone, preserved from the former church: round the edge is a Longobardic inscription to the memory of Edmund Tromwyn, who is supposed to have died about the close of the thirteenth century.

There are several mural monuments in the aisles and chancel; on the north side of the latter is a pedimented tablet set on a square table of dove-coloured marble, in memory of

The VENERABLE HUGH OWEN, M.A. F.R.S.
Archdeacon of Salop,
Prebendary of Salisbury and Lichfield,
One of the Portionists of Bampton, Oxfordshire,
Formerly Minister of this Parish, and afterwards of St. Mary, in Shrewsbury,
He was the only son of Pryce Owen, M.D. and Bridget his wife,
And the lineal descendant of an Ancient British family.
Distinguished for the extent and accuracy of his Antiquarian researches,
And knowledge of the principles of Ecclesiastical and Civil Architecture,
By the judicious application of this talent,
Joined to a firm but mild execution of his official authority,
He greatly contributed to the decent and substantial restoration
Of many venerable fabrics within his Archdeaconry.
His "Account of the Ancient and Present State of Shrewsbury,"
Originally published in a single volume,
Was afterwards embodied in a complete History written by him,
In conjunction with the Rev. John Brickdale Blakeway.
He died Dec. 23rd, 1827, aged 67 years.

In the south aisle, a plain tablet surmounted by a lion, commemorates the public spirit and unremitting exertions of Mr. ROBERT LAWRENCE, "in opening the great road through Wales between the united kingdoms; and for establishing the first mail coach to this town." He died Sept. 3rd, 1806, aged 57 years.

At the end of the north and south aisles are neat stone tablets, having a moulded base and cornice, and surmounted with armorial bearings. These were erected by the minister and parishioners, as a mark of their gratitude to Mr. Scott, and the writer of these pages at their request, had the privilege to indite the following inscriptions:—

A. D. MDCCCXLVII.

The inhabitants of this Parish most gratefully record the Munificence of

THE REVEREND RICHARD SCOTT, B.D.

Who, in Christian love, and a desire to honour God with his substance, has caused an effective architectural character to be given to the exterior of the south side of this sacred edifice, which, from the limited funds raised for its re-edification in 1750, necessarily induced brick as a material, and a design possessing little claim to taste. Stone piers are now set at each end of the building, and between the lower windows, which have been lengthened. Above, on a block cornice, are Roman Doric pilasters, which sustain an entablature crowned by an open balustrade and vase-shaped Acroteria. Fretted console tables have been added to the upper windows, the architraves entirely renewed, and, like those below, re-glazed within metallic framework. A new Portal and door at the eastern end of the south aisle, and the surface of this portion of the church and chancel covered with stucco, the apex of the gable being finished with an appropriate ornament.

A. D. MDCCCXLVI.

The Inhabitants of this Parish,

To commemorate the generous spirit and noble liberality of

THE REV. RICHARD SCOTT, B.D.

In erecting an ornamental stone wall and parapet around the church-

yard ; flagging the footpath underneath, and that on the eastern side, and likewise along the basement of the church ; renewing the steps at the south-east thoroughfare, and lowering, repairing, and enclosing those which form the main approach from the street to the cemetery. Also for a new pavement in the area, leading to and before the south door ; rebuilding the steps of the portico, with the addition thereto of a continuous pedestal ; painting the north side of the church, and cleansing the stone work ; roofing the chancel, and placing thereon a stone cornice and blocking course, with a foliated cone at each angle ; as well as for other useful improvements connected with the fabric.

The architectural improvements were designed and executed by Mr. Dodson, of this town, and the undertaking altogether evinces skill and good taste, combined with excellent workmanship ; and it is satisfactory to know, that the elaboration bestowed thereon has elicited general commendation.

The living is a perpetual curacy in the presentation of the Right Hon. the Earl of Tankerville, and the parish comprehends the Wyle Cop and the suburb of Coleham, but isolated districts of it are intermixed with several of the other parishes at different ends of the town.

The rebuilding of the cemetery wall (sixty-four feet in length, and nearly twelve feet in height), has been done in a most substantial and judicious manner. It is composed of a remarkably fine hard red stone, procured from a quarry at Besford Wood, in this county, on the estate of Sir A. V. Corbet, Bart. The design is ornamental to the street, displaying a rusticated face, relieved by six piers, which rest upon a moulded plinth. These piers sustain pedestals, between which extends a perforated parapet of semicircular arches ; beneath this is a bold dentel cornice, supported by a frieze enriched with an ornamental fret. This portion is

of Grinshill freestone. The wall is continued so as to enclose the whole of the principal entrance and steps to the churchyard, and was also designed and built by Mr. Dodson.

Previously to the year 1789, this part of the town was exceedingly narrow, inconvenient, and dangerous, not having space sufficient for two carriages to pass; in the above year sixteen dwelling-houses were taken down at the top of High Street, and, at the same time, the range facing St. Julian's Church removed; at which period was built "a strong brick wall to keep up the churchyard," the steps widened, and, as a cotemporary manuscript records, "the church appears much better to the view."

THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL WITHIN THE CASTLE.

It has been already stated (page 41) that the royal free chapel of St. Juliana became at an early period appurtenant to the church of St. Michael, the situation of which it has been shown was within the castle.

It is uncertain whether a church existed here anterior to the Norman conquest; however, in the survey called Domesday-book, compiled in 1085, the churches of Shrewsbury are mentioned in the following order, and their possessions enumerated: viz. St. Mary, St. Michael, St, Chad, St. Alkmund, and St. Julian. And of St. Michael these particulars are given:

"The Church of Saint Michael holds, of the Earl Roger,

Posseton: Chetel held it [in the time of the Confessor]: there is one virgate of land: the land is half a carucate: one man renders therefore a bundle of box on the day of Palms. The same church holds *Suletene:* Brictric, a free man held it from the Confessor, when there was one hide paying tax at the time of the Conquest: the land was one carucate: there was also half a carucate: it was then worth five shillings; now (the completion of Domesday) four pence less.*

The parish of St. Michael, fourteen years ago, excited public attention, by St. Mary's parish enforcing a demand for the payment of poor-rates upon the tenant of the Castle, J. C. Pelham, Esq. and which that gentleman resisted on the ground that the Castle formed no part of the parish of St. Mary. The issue came on for trial at the Summer Assizes, 1836, before Mr. Justice Patteson and a special jury, when a verdict was obtained in favour of the plaintiff, Mr. Pelham.

1222.—This chapel was of the donation of the Lord the King, and given to William de Haverhul.

The Chapel of the Forde was also of the gift of the King, and belonged to this church of the Castle, and rendered three shilings, and was worth one mark, which William de Haverhul then held.

1235.—The Chapel of St. Michael was held by William de Battal, and was worth yearly fourteen marks.

1271.—The Rector of St. Michael proceeded to recover in law for services due to him in right of his church. The

* These possessions were about 150 acres.

entry commences thus: "Robert Corbet, of Morton, offered himself on the fourth day, (probably of the assizes at Shrewsbury) against Richard de Sarre, Parson of the Church of St. Michael, of a plea that the same Robert should do to the aforesaid Richard the accustomed and right services which he ought to do to him for his frank tenement which he holds of him in *Soleton* and Lack.

1293.—It was worth yearly twelve marks, and Master Adam de Malane held it of the gift of the King.

1309.—King Edward the Second granted to his beloved clerk, Boniface de Ledes, this Free Chapel, vacant by the resignation of Roger de Ledes.

1318.—A similar Grant to Roger de Lysewy, it being then vacant, &c. To this Grant is appended an order from the King to "Master Thomas de Cherlton," then Constable of the Castle, to induct this Roger into corporal possession thereof.

1330.—A similar Grant of this chapel, being vacant, to Walter de London; and a subsequent one, in this year, to Adam de Overton. In 1342, it appears that Adam D'Overton was Warden of the same.

1343.—A Grant to John de Wynwyk of this Free Chapel, and an order to John de Wyndsore, then the Constable, to induct him; also a Grant to the same John de Wynwyk of the King's Free Chapel of St. Julian, Salop.

1344.—A Grant to John Fitz John Le Strange, of Blaunkmonstr, of this Free Chapel.

1347.—It appears that a suit was pending between John Fitz John Le Strange, of Whitechurch, Parson of this Free Chapel, and certain persons in the pleas mentioned.

1395.—An Inquisition taken at Salop, on Wednesday next after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, before John de Eyton, Sheriff of Salop, by virtue of a certain Writ to the said Sheriff directed, and to this Inquisition annexed, by oath of William Banaster of Bromdon, and others, who say upon their oath that William Tyrington, late Parson of this Chapel, had committed waste, dilapidation, and destruction in it, to wit, in throwing down, dilapidating, and destroying this Chapel, to the value of one hundred pounds, through the defect of the roofing, repairing, and supporting of the same, that is, in lead, stone, timber, and glass windows, and also in the carrying away one chalice and divers entire vestments, with all the ornaments ordained for the said chalice and vestments pertaining to the said Chapel, and by destroying divers images lately being in the same, by reason of his improvident custody of the said Chapel, and of his neglect of the repairing of this Chapel, to the value aforesaid, beginning the defects aforesaid, in the Feast of Easter, in the 48th year of King Edward the Third, till the death of this William Tyrington, so that this Chapel was utterly destroyed and wholly thrown down and laid in ruins by this William de Tyrington, late Parson of this Chapel, and so that two hundred marks were not sufficient to amend and repair it, with the ornaments lately being therein.

1410.—A Grant by King Henry the Fourth, reciting, that whereas he had granted to "Roger Yve, of Leeton, Rector of our Chapel of St. John the Baptist at Adbrighton Husee," "certain lands in fields called the Batteleyfield, in which field the battle between us and Henry Percy, deceased, and certain of our rebels, lately took place," in order to build "a certain Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene," of which he was appointed Warden, with power to choose five Chap-

lains to celebrate Divine Service in the said Chapel every day. The Grant then proceeds to endow the said Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene at Battlefield with various possessions, and among others with the Advowson of "the King's Free Chapel of St. Michael within the Castle of Salop, to which the Chapel of St. Julian of Salop is appurtenant or appendant."

1416.—John Repynton, then Warden of the said Chapel of Saint Michael, surrendered the same to the King.

1558.—John Halliwell took of Richard Burper, among other property, all manner of tythes, oblations, obventions, fruits, profits, and emoluments, of the Rectory, Church, and Chapel, of Saint Julian, and of "the Chapel of Saint Michael." In 1583.—A Fine, passing the same property.

Queen Elizabeth having granted a lease of the Castle and its appurtenances to Humphrey Onslow, Esq. at the yearly rent of 13s. 4d. that gentleman's lease expired in 1596, when the Castle and its appurtenances came into the possession of the Corporation. In the records of that body is the following entry:

1605.—"Agreed that persons shall view the stones in the Castle belonging to St. Michael's Chapel, and take account thereof, and enquire what stones are taken away."

There can be little doubt, however, but the Parish of St. Michael's had originally some connexion with St. Mary's parish; for in the reign of Henry II. it seems that Walter de Dunstanville, Rector of St. Michael's, sold a tract of land called Wogheresforlong and a moiety of Derefold to a person named Gilbert, reserving to himself a rent of three shillings and sixpence; and that John the son of Gilbert soon after-

wards conveyed it to one Nicholas le Poncer, who subsequently granted it to Haghmond Abbey, free from all secular service, saving a rent of four shillings to be annually paid (in lieu of the tithes of Derefold) to the parson of the parish of the church of St. Michael within the Castle.

This commutation is assented to and witnessed by the Dean and Chapter of St. Mary's, "for us and our successors for ever;" an attestation which would appear as quite unnecessary, if this district had not once been connected with their jurisdiction.

The etymology of Derfald, or Deerfold, is an enclosure or park (which will be noticed hereafter) for keeping deer, an appendage not unusual to our early fortresses. This circumstance (and at a period when little respect was shewn to boundaries civil or ecclesiastical) might have induced Roger de Montgomery, as feudal lord, to assign it as the parochial limits of his church, although at the cost of the parish of St. Mary.

THE ABBEY CHURCH.

THE ABBEY CHURCH is situated in the suburb to which it has given the name of Abbey Foregate. It is built of a deep red stone. A noble simplicity combined with a massive solidity characterizes the whole structure, to which time has given a most venerable appearance; and, though marks of mutilation are too evident throughout, it displays many curious features of ancient Norman architecture combined with the earlier pointed style.

It originally formed part of the richly endowed monastery founded in 1083 by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, and when entire was a stately cruciform building, equal in size to some of our cathedrals, having a central and western tower, transepts, &c. The whole eastern portion, two-thirds of the structure, was barbarously destroyed at the dissolution of monasteries in the time of Henry the Eighth. The neglect of after-times has contributed much to disfigure its external elevation, the eastern portion of the upper clerestory having from decay fallen down some time about the close of the 17th century.

The present church consists of the nave, side aisles, and western tower of the Abbey Church, and owes its escape to the circumstance of the western end having always been used as the church of the parish of HOLY CROSS, the name it still retains.

The west front is composed of the tower, flanked by the ends of the Norman side aisles, in which large mullioned windows have been inserted, and has a bold appearance. The tower is broad and massive; the basement early Norman, surmounted by a well-proportioned superstructure of the 14th century. The portal is a deeply recessed semicircular arch, having a pointed doorway inserted within it; to preserve uniformity, the exterior rib of the outward round arch springs on each side from a Norman shaft with an indented capital, and the combination displays much skill and ingenuity. It has lately been restored.

Above this is one of the most magnificent windows in the kingdom, 46 feet high by 23 feet wide; the intrado of the arch is enriched by a series of small trefoil panels; the label rises high above it in the ogee form, richly crocketted and terminated in a finial. The window is in the decorated style, and divided horizontally by transoms, and perpendicularly by six mullions, into seven compartments for the glass, the lower division having blank panels which have never been pierced for glazing. The arched head is gracefully pointed and filled with a profusion of the most rich and delicate tracery.

On each side of the window is a canopied niche, containing statues of Saint Peter and St. Paul, the tutelar saints of the Abbey.

The north and south-west angles of the tower are flanked by shelving buttresses, having their sets-off worked into pedimented weatherings. The bell chamber has two windows on each side, between those of the western front is a canopied niche containing the statue of an armed knight, bearing in one hand a mutilated sword, the other appears to have once projected from the body, but is now broken. The figure has a conical basinet, encircled by a crown, fastened to a camail of mail, which covers the neck, shoulders, and breast to the hips, and is finished by an emblazoned jupon. The thighs and legs are encased in plate armour. This statue is supposed to represent Edward the Third, in whose reign the tower was probably begun.

On the north side of the church is a lofty and handsome porch, the entrance to which is under a pointed arch resting on round columns, and peculiarly recessed within a square aperture charged with shields; above is a chamber (formerly in two stories) lighted by small mullioned windows, whose arches are nearly flat. On each side are niches, in one of which is the remains of a figure with a dragon at her feet, probably St. Margaret. The ceiling of the porch is cylindrical, without ornament, and the interior doorway a plain semicircular arch with round mouldings.

The exterior of the north aisle displays three modern gables, each of which contains a mullioned window. The eastern end of the church is finished by a wall run up between the remains of the two western piers that supported a central tower, in which has lately been inserted, by private munificence, Norman lights surrounded internally with chevron mouldings.

The upper portion of the outside walls and parapet of

the south aisle have also been restored, and six mullioned windows of three lights each, in the later gothic style, placed therein. The original Norman walls are distinguished by the flat and slightly projecting pilaster buttresses of that age.

The south aisle is entered by a plain Norman arch, resting on slender shafts, and which once communicated with the western wing of the cloister; the approach from the opposite eastern wing was by a pointed doorway, now repaired; adjoining this is the ruined wall of the transept, in which are two round arches, supposed to have formed portions of a side aisle, or small chantry chapel west of the transept.

THE INTERIOR

presents a majestic appearance of solemnity, calculated to impress the mind and animate devotion.

The font stands in its proper place at the entrance of the nave, and seems to have formed the upper portion of a Norman pillar with the capital hollowed.

The nave is separated from the side aisles by five arches; two, which on each side adjoin the tower, are in the pure style of the 14th century, and delicately lined with deep mouldings resting on clustered columns, and exhibit very distinctly the taste which prevailed in engrafting the more elegant pointed upon the massy Anglo-Norman style; the former, it will be clearly seen, have been formed out of the original semicircular arches, similar to the three eastward, which rest on short thick round pillars (16½ feet in circumference) of the plainest Norman character. Above these is a story of smaller arches in the same style, now filled up, but which evidently shew that it was the intention of the

monastery to assimilate them to the style adopted in the side windows of the tower and western portion of the nave: the alteration, however, was not completed.

The pointed arch opposite the north porch is partly filled by a skreen, the remnant of a small chantry chapel which formerly occupied this portion of the church. This skreen is adorned with a series of foliated niches once enriched with sculpture.

The ceiling of the church is painted in imitation of an oak ribbed roof, ornamented with flowers, the intersections of the ribs being finished with bosses, and the interstices with quatrefoils. A beautiful pointed arch, 52 feet high, springing from richly moulded imposts divides the tower from the nave, by which the whole front of the great western window is displayed. This window is filled with a series of armorial bearings in stained glass, restored in 1814, under the direction of the Rev. W. G. Rowland, M. A. from a drawing in the Heralds' College.

First row: 1. Beauchamp; 2. Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester; 3. King Richard the Second; 4. John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; 5. Edmund of Langley, Duke of York; 6. Stafford.

Second row: 7. Audley; 8. Clare; 9. B. a lion rampant O. (the arms of the monastery); 10. Barry of twelve, A. and S.

Third row: 11. Mortimer Earl of March; 12. Fitzalan and Warren.

Fourth row: 13. Montague; 14. Botelar of Wem; 15. Ufford Earl of Suffolk; 16. B. on a bend A. three escallops S.

Fifth row: 17. Warren Earl of Surrey; 18, 19, 20, B. a lion rampant, within a bordure O. (probably intended for the three Norman Earls of Shrewsbury); 21. Blundeville Earl of Chester; 22. Sir Philip de Burnell.

Sixth row: 23. England and France quarterly; 24. John of Hainault; 25. Strange of Blackmere; 26. Strange of Knockin; 27. Lisle; 28. Mortimer Earl of March; 29 Arundel and Warren; 30. France (semée) and England; 31. Arundel and Maltravers; 32. Corbet; 33. Albini; 34. Latimer; 35. Roger de Montgomery; 36. Sir Simon de Burley impaling Stafford; which last bearings will probably fix the date when the original window was put up, viz. about the 12th of King Richard the Second.

The lateral lights of the second tier contain the armorial bearings of Dr. Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Butler, Bishop of Lichfield, Lord Berwick, patron of the living, Ven. E. Bather, Archdeacon of Salop, Rev. R. L. Burton, Vicar of the parish, and the Rev. R. Scott, B. D. the donor of this important addition to the window. The other portions contain yellow glass richly diapered.

The whole extent of the tower is occupied by a spacious gallery, in which is an excellent organ, made by Gray, of London, and erected in 1806 at a cost of 365 guineas. The front of the gallery is a gothic skreen of three arches, divided by buttresses, and displays the armorial bearings of the principal benefactors to the organ.

The eastern window contains six resplendent figures in stained glass, executed by Mr. David Evans, of Shrewsbury, viz. St. James, King David, St. John, King Solomon, (as in the act of consecrating the Temple), St. Peter, and

ST. PAUL, with their respective emblems. The figures were placed in rich tracery work in 1836, but the window was originally set up in 1820, with the following inscription:—AEDI . SANCTAE . CRUCIS . Post . Annos . Viginti . Septem . In . SACRIS . EJUS . ADMINISTRANDIS . IMPENSOS . DONO . DEDIT . GVLIELMVS . GORSVCH . ROWLAND . ANNO . SALVTIS . MDCCCXX.

Below this window is a series of five Norman arches, crowned with an open balustrade, and forming the altar skreen, erected from a design by Mr. Carline, and at the expense of the Rev. Richard Scott, B. D. which has given a most imposing feature to this part of the church. These arches are enriched with a profusion of ornament and mouldings peculiar to this early style of architecture. The centre arch contains a scriptural subject representing "THE WOMEN AT THE SEPULCHRE."—The painting is by John Bridges, Esq. of London, and cost one hundred guineas. The subject from the first six verses of the xxiv. chap. of St. Luke's Gospel, depicts the women as having arrived at the Sepulchre with the prepared spices. Mary Magdalene is in the attitude of kneeling and looking into the tomb; on the side of which are two angels clothed in white, or "shining garments," who appear as addressing the women. The mingled emotions of anxiety and joy which pervade the countenances of the latter is strikingly contrasted by the benignant features and encouraging manner of the angels; while the uplifted hand of one expressively signifies "*He is not here, but is risen.*" The mellowed halo which pervades the back-ground affords a fine relief to the whole, and the colouring of the several figures evinces taste and skill in the artist.

In front is an elaborate stone rail of intersecting arches,

ornamented with trefoils and slight running foliage, producing a combination of the round and pointed arch. Within these is a smaller arch, also circular headed, the hollow of which is enriched with the ball flower. The caps of the pillars are foliated in different devices, and finished by a base, resting on the kneeling steps; and the front, (twenty-seven feet in length), is divided into three portions by buttresses, which are repeated at the angles, the top, or book-rest being ornamented with the roll moulding, having a fillet and beading along the entire edge.

This harmonizes with the beautiful stone altar screen, erected by the same benefactor, and the whole as a production of masonry reflects great credit upon the skill and architectural judgment of Messrs. Carline and Dodson, by whom it was designed and executed.

In the course of erecting this, it was found, that the shafts of the pillars of the eastern arches of the nave were covered with a thick coating of plaster and colouring, which on being removed brought to view the original Norman masonry—curiously rude in character, and of dark red stone, the caps of the shafts on each side differing in design. Within the north-eastern pillar of the south aisle the remains, of what appears to have been an ancient *stoup* was discovered, —the base of the slender shaft which supported the same being still discernible on the floor.

The above benefactor has caused free seats to be erected in the north aisle, in a character appropriate to the sacred structure, for the accommodation of nearly one hundred persons, and which are fitted up in the most convenient manner. Also a similar range in the corresponding aisle, which are let to the parishioners.

The north-east window was the gift of the late Lord Berwick, and previously to the year 1820 stood over the altar. In the centre compartment is a large figure of St. Peter, and the remainder of the window is occupied by the arms of the See of Lichfield, those of the munificent donor, and thirteen escutcheons of the incumbents from the Reformation to 1804. A rich border lines the mullions, and at the bottom is inscribed—MVNIFICENTIA . VIRI . PRAENOBILIS . THOMAE . NOEL . BARONIS . BERWICK . DE . ATTINGHAM . HVJVS . ECCLESIAE . PATRONI . ANNO . SALVTIS . MDCCCVI.

Small windows divided by a single mullion are placed in the eastern arches of the side aisles (which formerly opened with the transepts); that on the north side has the arms of Mortimer, Fitzalan, Talbot, and Berkeley, in stained glass. The corresponding window of the south aisle has three ancient shields (originally in the great chamber of the abbey) bearing the arms of France and England, Roger de Montgomery, and the symbols of the Patron Saints, the key and sword, in saltire.

In the south aisle is a beautiful mosaic window of stained glass, by Mr. D. Evans, containing twelve shields of the armorial bearings of families connected with the late Rev. John Rocke. Underneath is inscribed—MAJORVM SVORVM INSGNIA DEPINGI CURAVIT JOHANNES ROCKE, MDCCCXX.

MONUMENTS—SOUTH AISLE.

The oldest monument in the church is the mutilated cumbent figure of a warrior clad in mail of the date of King John's reign, and conjectured by the heralds at the visitation in 1623 to be the effigy of Roger de Montgomery, the Founder of the abbey, who died July 27th, 1094. It has been placed on a basement of early pointed arches, by the

Rev. W. G. Rowland, M. A. to whose taste in years past, this church is mainly indebted for much of its interior beauty and interest.

On the fall of St. Chad's and the demolition of St. Alkmund's church, several ancient monuments found an habitation within the aisles of this church. To enumerate all the inscriptions on these and other memorials would far exceed the prescribed limits of these pages: a brief survey must therefore suffice.

Commencing at the eastern end of the south aisle, we find—a bust, under a Roman arch, in alderman's robes, representing John Lloyd, alderman of this town, who died in 1647, aged 53.

Near this is a handsome altar-tomb bearing two cumbent figures, an alderman in his civic robes, with picked beard and bareheaded, and a lady in a scarlet gown, finished after the stiff habit of the times, denoting William Jones and Eleanor his wife; the former died in 1642, and the latter in 1623. These were brought from St. Alkmund's.

An alabaster tomb from Wellington old church, described by Dugdale as "a faire raised monument, whereon is cut the portraiture of a man in armour, and by him his wife, with this inscription"—

> Hic jacet in Tumba corpus Will'mi Chorlton armigeri et Anne Uxor ejus; que quidem Anna obiit vii die mensis Junii, Anno D'ni Mill'imo cccccxxiiii. et dictus Will'ms obiit p'mo die mensis Julii anno d'ni mill'imo cccccxliiii. quorum animab' p'picietur Deus.

On the sides of the tomb are a series of canopied niches, with figures of angels and friars bearing shields, on which are emblazoned armorial bearings of the families of *Charlton*,

Zouch, and *Horde;* one of the friars is remarkable, having a fox's head peeping out from under his long gown.

In this part are handsome mural tablets with Latin inscriptions to the memory of individuals of the families of ROCKE, PRINCE, BALDWIN, &c. &c.

Near the south entrance is the cumbent figure of a cross-legged knight in mail armour, with surcoat, sword in scabbard, gauntlets on his hands, (the left holding the scabbard, the right on the hilt,) spurs on heels, and his feet resting on a lion. It is considered to be the effigy of *Walter de Dunstanville*, the first Lord of Ideshale, (Shiffnal), who granted to God the church of St. Leonard, and the Canons of Wombridge; from whence the figure was brought. He died 8 Rich. I. 1196-7. Nearly opposite, resting on a basement, is a curious ancient ridge-backed gravestone, on which is cut a foliated cross; under this is a small figure clad as a priest, close to whose head is attached the outline of a bell. On the right side is a chalice, a book, and a candle; round the edge of the stone is T : M : O : R : E : U : A, which is conjectured to mean Thomas More, Vicarius Abbatiæ. It was removed from St. Giles's.

Against the western wall is a large free-stone gothic memorial, with an inscription, commemorative of the many noble gifts conferred on this church and parish by the late Rev. R. Scott, B. D.

Adjoining stands a font; found many years since in the Abbey garden. Its basin represents an open flower, over which is festooned drapery supported from the mouths of grotesque heads; the pillar on which it is fixed formed the upper part of the ancient cross which formerly stood opposite

the south door of St. Giles's church. On the sides are sculptured the Crucifixion, the Visitation, the Virgin and Child, and a person in the act of devotion.

In the vestry adjoining, is an old painting of the Crucifixion, which was a century and a quarter ago "turned out of the church," and occasioned at the time some strife between the parson and his flock.

NORTH AISLE.

Among other ancient cumbent figures in this aisle, one is supposed to represent a Judge who died in Shrewsbury, being robed to the feet, and having a coif drawn close over his head, and tied under the chin. It is of the date of Edward I.

In the porch is a monumental statue clad in plate armour, displaying a long loose robe as the surcoat, curiously disposed on one side to shew the warlike character of the deceased, whose armour, belt, and dagger would have been otherwise concealed. The head is wrapped in a close cowl. From the peculiarity of the robe being thrown back, this effigy is probably unique. Froissart asserts that a similar dress was worn in battle, and that this kind of long loose drapery proved fatal to Sir John Chandos, for he "wore over his armour a large robe which fell to ye ground;" and as it appears, when he marched "entangled his legs so that he made a stumble, and was killed by the enemy." The costume of the present figure (which originally stood on an altar tomb in St. Alkmund's church) may be attributed to the close of the 14th century; but whom it represents is now unknown. A similar figure which originally rested on the same tomb, shows the robe drawn close, with the buttons down to the feet.

On the side walls are several neat tablets. An elegant canopied niche with pinnacles commemorates Edward Jenkins, Esq. of Charlton Hill, co. Salop, who ably distinguished himself in the first American war, being then a lieutenant in the 60th regiment, and died May 1, 1820, in his 81st year.

At the eastern end is a large altar-tomb, on which are recumbent figures of Richard Onslow, Esq. (Speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of Elizabeth), and his lady Catherine; the former is dressed in his robes of office, and the latter in the dress of the times. On the sides and ends of the monument are small figures of his sons and daughters. He died in 1571, and was buried at St. Chad's.

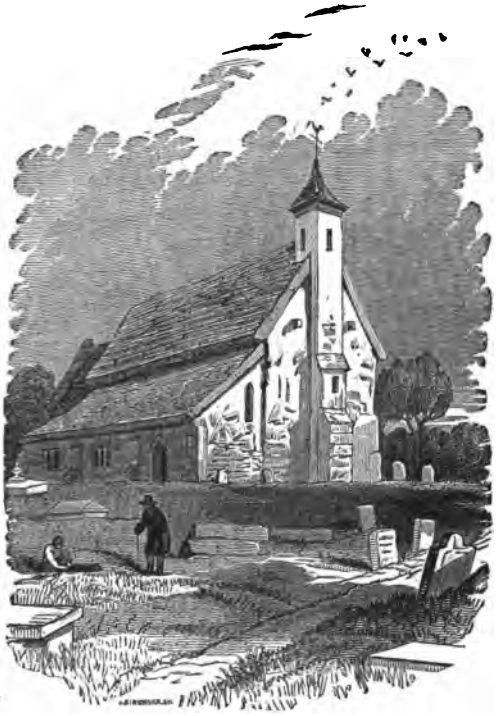
Above this is a mural monument showing a gentleman and lady kneeling opposite to each other under a rich Grecian entablature; the former is clad in a ruff and long gown, and the latter has a long veil thrown back. They represent Thomas Edwards, Esq. who died 1634, and Ann his wife, daughter of Humphrey Baskerville, alderman of London. Over the entablature is a lady in a richly-laced habit, and a little girl kneeling, intended for Mary, wife of Thomas Edwards, Esq. and daughter of Thomas Bonham Norton, Esq. who died in childbirth, 1641.

Length of the church from east to west 123 feet, breadth (including aisles) 63 feet; the tower is 104 feet in height, and contains a fine mellow peal of eight bells.

The living is a vicarage, with St. Giles's annexed, in the gift of the Right Hon. Lord Berwick, whose family received it from the Crown in exchange for three small livings in Suffolk.

The ruins of the monastic buildings, now scattered over an extent of about nine acres, are not considerable, and will, with the ancient STONE PULPIT, on the south side of this church, be described in a notice of the suburb of Abbey-foregate.

SAINT GILES'S CHURCH



Occupies a situation at the eastern extremity of the suburb of Abbey-foregate. The structure is unquestionably as old

as the early part of the twelfth century; and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a small turret at the western end, in which a bell has lately been introduced. The principal entrance is at the south, under a Norman arch. The north aisle is separated from the nave by three pointed arches sustained on plain round columns, formed (it appears) in the thickness of the wall, and peculiarly flanked on the north side by square piers, having an upper and lower narrow moulding adorned with recessed quatrefoils. These piers, it is presumed, originally served as buttresses to strengthen the outward wall of the fabric, which on receiving the addition of a north aisle (evidently at a very early period), a communication was then opened with the nave by perforating the wall into arches, which are of the era when the Norman was giving way to the pointed style. It is not improbable but this aisle was made for the accommodation of persons afflicted with leprosy, to which they had access from the adjoining hospital by a pointed doorway, and where they might hear the offices of religion without endangering other worshippers with their contagious malady. At the east end is a curious round-headed window with mullions.

A fine pointed arch separates the nave from the chancel, which is terminated by a flat-arched mullioned window, containing a noble collection of stained glass, by Mr. David Evans, of Shrewsbury. The four lower compartments have full-length figures of THE EVANGELISTS, standing upon hexagonal pedestals, through the external circular arches of which is exhibited the groined roof of a crypt supported by slender pillars. Over each figure is a beautiful canopy of tabernacle work, and in the intersections of the tracery are the symbols of the Evangelists, each supporting a tablet,

on which is respectively inscribed, in small characters—

Mattheus Christi stirpem et genus ordine narrat
Marcus Baptistam clamantem inducit eremo
Virgine prognatum Lucas describit Jesum
Prodit Joannes verbi impenetrabile lumen.

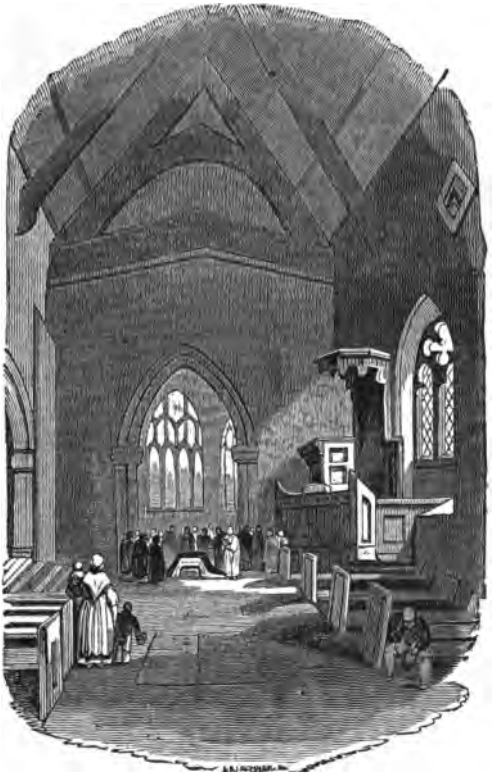
The three principal compartments in the upper division display fine representations from ancient designs of THE SALUTATION, THE WISE MEN'S OFFERING, and THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE, beneath each of which is a Latin text: the first is taken from Luke i. 28; the second from Psalm lxxii. 29, 30; the third from Luke ii, 29, 30. At the bottom of the window, GULIELMUS GORSUCH ROWLAND DONO DEDIT.

The small Norman loop-hole on the north side contains a figure of St. Giles, and is an exquisite imitation of ancient stained glass.

On the south side of the chancel is a low pointed arch, the stone work of which projects outside the building, and was no doubt originally intended to contain the remains of a master of the hospital. After the plaster had been removed in 1826, which brought to view this archway, the ground at its base was opened, when a stone grave cased with brick-work was discovered, with part of the bones of two individuals. In 1685 it appears to have been used for the interment of the individual whose name is inscribed on the stone, and to prevent (if possible) that ejection of himself which must have befallen the remains of a former tenant, it is further added

STVR NOT MY BONES WHICH ARE LAYDE IN CLAY
FOR I MVST RISE AT THE RESVRRECTION DAY.

The windows of the north aisle are filled with fragments of stained glass, ingeniously disposed, so as to represent figures.



The interior, as shewn in the foregoing vignette, retained much of its primitive character until within the last twenty years, in the course of which many important im-

provements have been effected within and about the building, especially in placing drains around the exterior, which have not only rendered the edifice free from damp, but contributed also to the dryness of the cemetery.*

But the sentiment which this venerable place formerly impressed was in some measure checked by its disuse, divine worship being only celebrated within its walls twice a year, until 1836, when a regular service commenced, to the great convenience of the increasing population of the neighbourhood. New oak pews, benches, and a handsome pulpit have been subsequently erected within its walls, from a design by Mr. Carline, at the expence of the late Reverend Richard Scott, B. D. who further contributed £1000. that with the letting of the pews, might afford a stipend to the minister. Much has been justly said against the deformity which the introduction of pews has rendered to churches; those, however, placed in this structure meet every objection, and are models of what pews should be,—fixed forms having backs, but without doors;—adapted for a devotional rather than a lounging posture. On the outside partition of each is a small carved finial. A new altar-piece has been placed above the communion-table: the latter was presented by an inhabitant of the parish, and the former by Mr. Scott.

The dimensions of the church—nave 45 feet by 36, chancel 20 feet by 15, total length 65 feet. The pedestal of the font is carved with zigzag mouldings, and supports a round bason, ornamented with chevron work and small arches; it originally belonged to the church at High Ercall.

* A notice of the improvements in this church will be found in vol. 100, part II. of the Gent. Mag. communicated by the author of these Memorials.

It may be mentioned, that after the monks of Shrewsbury had obtained possession of the bones of St. Wenefrede in 1137, those precious relics were deposited on the altar of this church, until a shrine worthy their reception could be prepared in the Abbey.

On the floor are several ancient stones bearing crosses, no doubt denoting the interment of some of the masters of the old hospital of St. Giles.

A spacious cemetery surrounds the building, where the contemplative mind, "free from noise and riot rude," may resort to pour the grateful tribute of a sigh, or embalm afresh the memory of that departed spirit with whom he once took generous and undesigning counsel.

In this silent repository are gravestones 200 years old, many inhabitants of the town having selected it as their last resting place, from a feeling similar to that inscribed upon a tomb in the south-west corner of the church-yard:

Ut Nemini noceret Mortuus,
Qui Unicuique pro re nata succurrere voluit Vivus,
Hic extra Urbem sese contumulandum præcipiebat,

CHENEY HART, M. D.

Warringtoni in agro Lancastriensi natus Nov. 17-28, 1726.

Near this spot is entombed the remains of JOHN WEBSTER, M. D. whose extensive and accurate knowledge of the resources of medical science, combined with sagacity and judgment in the application of them, secured him a high reputation as a physician in this town and county. He died Nov. 25th, 1837.

A stone near the south window covers the remains of

John Whitfield, Surgeon, on which is recorded an epitaph, the very quintessence of chemical brevity—

I. W.

COMPOSITA SOLVANTUR.

Opposite the south door is the socket of an ancient stone cross, the upper portion of which supports a font in the Abbey church.

From hence likewise, is a picturesque view of the town, with the different churches, the vale below being watered by the meanderings of the Rea brook; while the more distant prospect, chequered with mountains and woody knolls, verdant pastures and rural habitations, presents a striking picture of

"Life's fair landscape, mark'd with light and shade."

SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Stands on a pleasant site in the populous suburb of Castle Foregate. The western side commands a view of the venerable Castle with its towers and hoary walls, the Royal Free Grammar School, and the lofty spires of St. Mary's and St. Alkmund's churches, the fine church of Saint Chad, backed by distant mountains, standing prominent in the front. On the northern side is a picturesque dell, formerly the course of the Severn.

The church is a respectable brick building in the Doric style. It was erected by subscription, and consecrated for divine worship August 24th, 1830.

In plan, it consists of a tower, nave, side aisles, and an elliptical recess for the chancel, with a vestry in the base of the tower.

The tower is of three divisions, and rises to the height of 70 feet; the basement is square, on which rests an octagonal belfry, crowned by a similar division of smaller dimensions, having a cornice charged with lions heads, the whole being surmounted by an angular lead roof and a gilded cross.

The body of the church is in length 70 ft. 6 in. and in breadth 40 ft. 6 in. and has a stone plinth, cornice, and parapet. The windows throughout are circular-headed, and have an unbroken stone architrave.

Two portals, north and south, formed by a stone cornice sustained on pilasters, lead to the interior, which will accommodate a congregation of 800 persons, 650 of whom may possess free sittings. On the floor are thirty pews, the other part being entirely free. There are galleries over the north and south aisles, and at the western end, the former are sustained on cast-iron columns, which are also continued for the support of the roof.

The ceiling has a good effect, being panelled in large square compartments, and painted in imitation of oak.

The eastern end is finished by panels, inscribed with the Decalogue, &c. and three windows of stained glass. The subject of the centre one is the NATIVITY, from the celebrated "La Notte" of Correggio, and is a masterly production, especially in the management of light suitable to the time and scene of the subject. Underneath is the inscription —"AND THEY CAME WITH HASTE, AND FOUND MARY, AND JOSEPH, AND THE BABE LYING IN A MANGER." Those on each side of the above are designed from the ANUNCIATION, and the PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE,

the former from a painting by Guido in the chapel of the palace on the Monte Cavallo of Rome. The angel, a beautiful figure arrayed in yellow drapery, is in the act of presenting to the virgin a lily, while his attitude and countenance seem to bespeak the words of the motto inscribed beneath—"HAIL! THOU THAT ART HIGHLY FAVOURED AMONG WOMEN; THE LORD IS WITH THEE." The other is from the celebrated picture at Antwerp, by Rubens, and founded on the words of holy Simeon—"LORD, NOW LETTEST THOU THY SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE: ACCORDING TO THY WORD."

These windows were executed by Mr. David Evans, of Shrewsbury, and were the gift of the Rev. W. G. Rowland, M. A. Minister and Official of St. Mary's.

There is a small but excellent organ in the west gallery, and the tower contains a light peal of six bells, cast in 1830. The architect of the church was Mr. J. Carline; and when it is considered that it was erected at an expence of little more than £2000, criticism is disarmed in the substantial appearance which it possesses.

The cemetery surrounding the church is neat; a gravel walk shaded by lime trees extends along its sides, and the ground is laid out in divisions for graves and vaults, which are numbered according to a plan kept for the purpose.

This church is in St. Mary's Parish, with the minister of which the presentation is vested. On the south side is the parsonage.

SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH

is situated at the upper end of the suburb of Frankwell, and is dedicated to the tutelar Saint of England, from its proximity to the site of an ancient religious foundation called in old writings "The free chapel of St. George."

The present church was consecrated January 30th, 1832, and is cruciform in plan, having a small tower at the

west end; it is built with fine Grinshill stone, from a design by Mr. Haycock. The architecture adopted throughout the building, with the exception of the tower, is of the lancet or early pointed style.

The west front is of three divisions guarded by projecting buttresses, the centre portion forming the principal entrance, a pointed arch bounded by a sweeping label; above this is a lancet light, succeeded by a panel intended for a clock dial. From this part the tower shows itself above the roof to the height of about 20 feet, and has mullioned windows in the style of the 16th century, surmounted by an embattled parapet and four crocketted pinnacles. The flanks of the west end are quite plain, having in their centre narrow blank loopholes.

The nave has on each side four lancet windows, bounded by labels; and the northern and southern extremities of the transepts, with the chancel or eastern end, have triple lancet windows, with recessed mouldings, resting on grotesque carved heads. The transepts and chancel terminate with gables, having on their apex a crocketted pinnacle.

The extreme length of the church is about 84 feet, and 30 feet in width, the transepts from north to south are 66 feet, and the tower to the summit of the pinnacles 60 feet.

THE INTERIOR

possesses a pleasing appearance. The basement of the tower forms the vestibule, which is flanked on one side by the vestry, and on the other by the stairs leading to the gallery. The aisles of the nave and transepts are occupied by free benches, with a passage on either hand, the pews being placed along the side walls of the entire building.

The font is of free-stone, and stands on a pedestal in the area between the transepts; the basin is octangular, having on its side compartments a small quatrefoil sunk within a square panel.

On each side of the communion table are two carved gothic chairs; and nearly the whole extent of the eastern wall of the chancel is covered with a handsome skreen.

The three lancet windows are filled with splendid stained glass. That in the centre is occupied by a full-length figure of ISAIAH, in an attitude strikingly prophetic, and clothed in a brilliant vest of purple, over which is thrown a green robe lined with ermine, denoting his royal descent. Those on each side contain figures of ST. MATTHEW and ST. MARK. The former exhibits deep and serious meditation, with a most benign countenance; in his right hand is a halbert, and in his left a Greek manuscript. ST. MARK, whose head appears as covered with the frost of hoary years, is pointing to an open gospel which he holds in his left hand. The figures stand on bases, which display an ornamented quatrefoil, and are severally surmounted by canopies of elegant crocketted tabernacle work. At the foot of the window is a series of pointed arches in ruby glass, beneath which is inscribed: HANC . FENESTRAM . PICTURATAM . AEDIS . SANCTI . GEORGII . DECORANDAE . ERGO . DONAVIT . RICARDUS . SCOTT . SACRAE . THEOLOGIAE . BACCALAUREUS . ANNO . SALUTIS . MDCCCXXXIII.

The triple windows of the north and south transepts are embellished by the same benefactor with elegant mosaic patterns of elaborate workmanship, vying in richness and mellowness of colouring with the finest specimens of ancient

stained glass, and are, with the former, creditable to the talents of Mr. David Evans.

Attached to the west end is a deep gallery of free seats, which contains a small organ, presented by the late Rev. Richard Scott, B. D. in 1834.

The church was erected by a public subscription and a grant from the commissioners for building churches. The total cost, exclusive of the site, was nearly £4000, of which sum, however, £400 has been vested in the name of trustees as a fund for future repairs. There are 57 pews which will accommodate 290 persons, and 460 free and unappropriated sittings.

The right of presentation is in the vicar of St. Chad's, and in 1837 there was an ecclesiastical district assigned to this church, comprising the township of Frankwell.

THE OLD HOSPITAL OF ST. GEORGE stood on a site eastward between the present church and the Welsh bridge, which latter, as early as the reign of Henry II. was called "Saint George's Bridge." About the year 1150, the Bishop of Coventry, considering the great poverty of the brethren of the Hospital of St. George, Salop, released to all who should contribute to their necessities "thirteen days of penance enjoined them, and a share of all the prayers and alms within his Bishoprick." In 1448 the church appears to have been in the gift of the Crown, and is supposed to have been taken down early in the reign of Elizabeth.

TRINITY CHURCH

stands in MEOLE ROAD, COLEHAM. Its erection was proposed at a meeting held Dec. 7th, 1835, for the accommodation of the inhabitants of this isolated suburb, who were for the most part destitute of pews, or sittings in their parish

church of St. Julian. The town and neighbourhood by their contributions, in co-operation with those of the parishioners, raised £1000, which was increased by a grant of £600 from the Lichfield Diocesan Society for building churches, and a further grant of £200 from the Incorporated Church Building Society, &c. The site was purchased by the parishioners for the purpose of affording additional burying ground. The edifice was commenced in July, 1836, and consecrated 25th August, in the following year, by Dr. Butler, Bishop of Lichfield.

The front elevation is sufficiently detailed in the vignette, the body has four windows on each side, corresponding with those in the front. The chancel is a square recess, separated from the nave internally by a circular arch. The interior is 60 feet by 46, and affords 812 sittings, 500 of which are free. In the gallery over the principal entrance, is an organ built by Bishop, of London, scale, G G to F, 58 notes, 328 pipes, the gift of the late Rev. R. Scott, who further invested the sum of £350 stock, 3 per cent. consols, the interest to be paid to the organist for ever.

The windows of the chancel contain six figures in stained glass, surrounded by a rich border, *viz:* THE FOUR EVANGELISTS, and ST. PETER and ST. PAUL. The two latter occupy the centre light, the former of which holds his symbol the keys in one hand, and a book in the other. St. Paul is commanding in attitude, and sustains a sword, his right hand being uplifted as in the act of exhortation. The end windows on corresponding sides of the body of the church, contain scriptural subjects in each, set within a chaste mosaic pattern, and surrounded by a flowing Grecian border of rich ruby glass. That near the reading pew re-

presents "JESUS BEARING HIS CROSS," from a design by *Rubens*. The Saviour is depicted as being hurried from the Judgment Hall, amid a rabble of soldiers, and supporting his cross, in the distance is "Golgotha." Above is the "CRUCIFIXION" from *Vandyke*. It comprises in addition to the principal object three figures, *viz:* Mary, the mother of Jesus; the beloved disciple, John; and Mary Magdalene; the latter is embracing the cross, and looking upwards, as with despairing grief. On the opposite side near the pulpit is the "RESURRECTION," after Rubens, which shows the Saviour emerging from the tomb, around which is reclining a guard of Roman soldiers. Over this is "THE ASCENSION," from *Vanderwerff*, the Redeemer appears as being taken up in a cloud, and a body of his disciples gazing earnestly after him. These windows, executed by Mr. D. Evans, were presented by the late Rev. R. Scott, whose further munificence to this church will be found recorded on the Benefaction table.

At the side of the chancel is a "mortuary vestry" erected in memory of relatives of the present incumbent.

The estimated cost of the structure was £1835; builder, Mr. Stant. The appointment of minister is vested with the incumbent of St. Julian's, and the township of Coleham has been apportioned as a district for ecclesiastical functions.

RELIGIOUS HOUSES or CHAPELS, in former times, stood at five different approaches into Shrewsbury: of these St. Giles's only remains.

The chapel of St. Mary Magdalene appears from the following extract to have occupied a site near Trinity church. Edward III. 5 June, 1356, granted to his beloved

in Christ *Roger*, Hermit of the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, situated without Salop, a certain plat of waste called Spelcrosse, contiguous to the said chapel, and containing an acre of land: to hold the same to him and his successors, hermits there, for their habitation, and to find a chaplain to pray in the chapel for the king's soul, &c. A deed also of 1634 mentions "The Hermitage lane leading into Meolefield." A tea-garden near the site of "Belle Vue' was, in the recollection of many inhabitants, called "the Hermitage."

DISSENTING MEETING HOUSES.

The first regular Presbyterian congregation formed in Shrewsbury was by the Reverends John Bryan, M. A. and the learned Francis Tallents, who were ejected by the Act of Uniformity in 1662 from the livings of St. Chad's and St. Mary's. After experiencing the various alternations of suffering and indulgence during the unsteady reign of Charles the Second, and assembling for some time in private houses, they at length built a meeting house in the High-street, in 1691. But while they separated themselves from the established church on account of her discipline, they did not renounce the leading doctrines of the gospel as preserved in that church, which is evident from the inscription set up in their new building:—

"This place was not built for a faction, or a party, but to promote repentance and faith, in communion with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

The year 1715 was particularly unfortunate for the Protestant Dissenters in this and the adjoining counties: several of their places of worship were destroyed by riotous mobs raised against the king and his government. During the violence of these insurrections, the High-street meeting house was demolished, in the night of July 6th, 1715, and the pulpit publicly burnt. Government, however, speedily caused it to be rebuilt; when the royal arms were placed within the building.

The good and pious Job Orton preached here for several years. On his resignation in 1766, a difference of sentiment arose among the members of the congregation in the choice of a minister. The building has been subsequently used for worship by the Unitarians. It is 70 feet by 30, and was rebuilt in 1840, and fitted up with the wainscot and pulpit of the former edifice.

THE INDEPENDENTS.

The place occupied by this denomination had its origin in consequence of the schism in the High-street congregation, and is situated in a retired area on Swan-hill. It is a substantial square edifice, with a neatly finished interior that will seat 600 persons. On a stone tablet in the front is the following inscription:

> "This building was erected in the year 1767, for the Public Worship of God, and in defence of the Rights of Majorities in Protestant Dissenting Congregations to choose their own Ministers."

On the north-east side is a spacious vestry, containing portraits of the Rev. F. Tallents, and J. Bryan, the ejected clergymen before noticed, and other nonconformist ministers. The space adjoining three sides of the building is used as a cemetery.

THE INDEPENDENTS, CASTLE GATES.

Hold the faith and order of congregational dissenters with the above, from whom they seceded in consequence of a difference of opinion in the choice of a co-pastor, and proceeded to form a new interest.

The building was commenced in 1844, and opened March 4th, 1845. The front is of stone in the semi-Italian style, with a Roman doric portico. The interior unites simplicity without meanness, and commodiousness without extravagance. An upper story is appropriated for school rooms, &c. having an entrance from the Castle walk.

BAPTISTS.

A society of this persuasion is stated to have existed in this town in the time of the Commonwealth. The meeting house, in Claremont-street, was opened in 1780, and enlarged in 1810, to contain a congregation of 600. It contains a monument in memory of Mr. Palmer, who was pastor of the congregation 27 years, and died in 1823.

THE SECOND BAPTISTS

Seceded from the above society in 1827, and built a place for worship in Castle Foregate, which was opened April 9th, 1830, but since taken down for Railway purposes. They retain the doctrines of Particular or Calvinistic Baptists, as professed by the former society, and now meet for worship in a building at the foot of Claremont bank, Barker-street.

THE WESLEYAN METHODISTS

Assemble on St. John's hill, in a building erected in 1804, and has been twice subsequently enlarged and decorated with stained glass and an organ. Galleries surround the interior, which will hold nearly 1000 people.

A small building erected at Spring Gardens, Castle Foregate (by the proprietor of the land) was opened Feb. 26th, 1826, in connexion with this society. The service is free, and the place used at certain hours on the Sunday as a school. Similar places of resort are situated in Castle fields and Frankwell.

THE METHODIST NEW CONNEXION

appear to claim a mutual relationship to the founder of Methodism with the Wesleyans, from which they differ only in the form of church government and professed dissent from the Church of England. This society formed a congregation here in 1833, and in Jan. 1834, an edifice for their service was commenced near the Old Tower, Murivance, which was opened June 13th, in the same year.

The exterior displays two entrances with a Grecian doric portico to each, and is divided into three parts, viz. a centre and two wings, formed with Corinthian pilasters, frieze, and cornice; the centre terminates with a pediment, and the wings with a broken blocking and Grecian tiles. The interior is without galleries, and arranged on rather a novel plan; the centre is occupied by two ranges of pews, with a row on each of the sides which ascend gradually from the floor, and thereby afford great economy of space.

The ground at the back declining considerably from the street, school-rooms, a vestry, &c. are formed underneath the building, which is calculated to contain 700 persons, and cost £1500.

THE WELSH CALVINISTIC METHODISTS

meet in a neat structure in Hill's Lane, erected by a subscription on a portion of the site of a former edifice, and was

opened for worship Dec. 25th, 1826. The service is in the Ancient British language.

THE WELSH INDEPENDENTS

assemble in a building opened Dec. 25th, 1844, and erected on the side of the steps forming a pass on the western side of Pride Hill.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS

introduced themselves into this town in 1822, by preaching in the streets and suburbs. The place originally built in Castle-court, Castle-street, for the Sandemanian Baptists (a society here nearly extinct), was purchased for them, and they commenced service there June 4th, 1826.

THE QUAKERS

have a meeting house, fitted up with simplicity, and neatness, on St. John's Hill, to which a small burial ground is attached.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

is situated near the southern portion of the town walls. The exterior exhibits a stuccoed pedimented front, surmounted by a plain cross. The interior was enlarged in 1826, and is elegant in decoration, and calculated to contain nearly 250 persons.

ROYAL FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This noble public institution for the education of youth was founded by KING EDWARD THE SIXTH, Feb. 10th, 1551, on the supplication of Hugh Edwards, late of London, mercer, and Richard Whitaker, one of the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury, and endowed with the greater portion of the revenues of the two dissolved colleges of St. Mary and St. Chad.—QUEEN ELIZABETH greatly augmented her brother's donation in 1571, by adding the whole rectory of Chirbury, in this county, with additional tithes and estates in St. Mary's parish, which now produce an income of £3000 per annum, about one-sixth of which is paid in stipends to the clergy of the parishes in which the schools possess tythes.

In 1798, the School having sunk into a state of comparative insignificance, a bill was passed for the better government and regulation of the grammar School of King Edward the Sixth in this town, by which the management of the revenues, and the removal or discharge of the masters, is vested in the Bishop of Lichfield (as visitor) and thirteen trustees, or governors. The appointment of head and second masters rests with the Fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge. The school is open for the gratuitous instruction of the sons of freemen, and has maintained a character of high repute from its earliest formation. We learn that under the care of its first master, Thomas Ashton, there were 290 scholars, among whom were many of the sons of the gentry of the county and from North Wales, as well as from the first families in the kingdom. Camden, when he wrote, says, "it was the best filled in all England, being indebted for their flourishinge state to provision made by the excellent and worthie Thomas Ashton," who was instrumental in procuring the grant of augmentation from Elizabeth, and contributed greatly to the school himself, and from whose exertions and judicious regulations it preserved its usefulness for many generations. The school was opened in 1562.

Many persons of eminence in by-gone days received their education in Shrewsbury School. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it sent forth one of the most brilliant ornaments of her court, the gallant and accomplished SYDNEY,—the "miracle of the age," and also the celebrated Sir Fulke Greville Lord Brooke;—and under the able management and profound learning of the late head-master, Dr. Butler, it held a pre-eminent rank among THE PUBLIC SEMINARIES OF SOUND LEARNING AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION in this

country, having produced numerous individuals who have been distinguished for their eminent classical attainments.

In retiring from the duties of his scholastic station, in 1836, it was Dr. Butler's happiness to find that St. John's College had given a good earnest of its intention to uphold the character of the school over which he had so long and so zealously presided, by the selection of the Rev. Dr. Kennedy as his successor, whom he characterised as "the most brilliant scholar he had ever sent forth,—the brightest star in that galaxy of distinguished pupils whose names adorn the boards of Shrewsbury School; while from experience of his (Dr. Butler's) system, both as a pupil and assistant master in this seminary,—his subsequent practice as a lecturer and private tutor at College, and as an assistant master for upwards of six years at Harrow, as well as from his own unrivalled talents and high literary distinctions,—from his fine taste and sound learning,—there could not be a shadow of doubt but that he would fully maintain the reputation of Shrewsbury School;"—an anticipation already realized in the great proficiency displayed by the scholars, the diligence, patience, and attention bestowed by the several masters, and the general system of education adopted.

By arrangements made within the last few years by the Trustees, the sons of Burgesses obtain every advantage that can be derived at this ancient foundation, without any cost whatever, save that of books.

A scheme is now under the consideration of the Court of Chancery, by which, with the liberal concurrence of the Head-master, it is proposed to lessen the expense of education generally in the School.

The following annual prizes are distributed—

The Sidney Gold Medal for the best scholar proceeding from the school.		
Pelham Prizes.....	Latin Verse.....	20 guineas.
	Greek Iambics.....	10 guineas.
Trustees' Prize.....	Latin Essay.....	20 guineas.
Assistant Master's Prize...	Latin Translation.....	10 guineas.
Head Master's Prizes	For the First and Second in the Examination..... ...	Books.

In 1832 this ancient and royal foundation was visited by three members of the royal family within two months: by his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, Sept. 5th; by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, Nov. 1st.

THE SCHOOLS

are situate near the Castle, and display a handsome spacious structure of free-stone, built in the incongruous but fashionable style of architecture which prevailed in the 16th and 17th century; wherein the Grecian and pointed arches are fantastically mixed together. The building occupies two sides of a quadrangle, with a square pinnacled tower at the angle, partly rebuilt in 1831.

The original school-room was of timber, to which the tower, chapel, and library were added in 1595. In the year 1627 the wooden portion was removed, and its site occupied by the present edifice, in the centre of which is a gateway, having a Corinthian column on each side, upon which are statues of a school-boy and a graduate, bareheaded, in the dress of the times. Above the arch is a Greek inscription from Isocrates, which has been thus rendered, "If you are fond of learning you will be learned." Over this are the armorial bearings of Charles the First, in whose reign it was built.

The upper story of this part is occupied by the principal school-room, an apartment 82 feet by 21, and in the basement is the second-master's school, in which are several panels containing the names of those alumni educated here, and who have subsequently distinguished themselves at the Universities. The upper moulding of each panel contains one of the following lines:—

TV . FACITO . MOX . CVM . MATVRA . ADOLEVERIT . AETAS SIS . MEMOR . ATQVE . ANIMO . REPETAS . EXEMPLA . TVORVM ET . TVA . TE . VIRTVS . MAGNA . INTER . PRAEMIA . DVCET.

The chapel forms the other wing of the building, and was consecrated Sept. 10th, 1617, when a sermon was preached on the occasion, in the presence of the Bailiffs and Corporation of Shrewsbury, by Sampson Price, D.D. Chaplain in Ordinary to the King, from John x. 22, 23. It is 62 feet long by 22 feet wide, and contains a handsome pulpit and bible stand, and is separated from the ante-chapel by a carved skreen, open at the top, and displaying a series of interlaced arches resting on fluted Corinthian columns. Prayers are read here on school days, by the head-master who is catechist, an appointment instituted 34th Elizabeth.

Above the chapel, and of the same size, is the library, a noble room, rebuilt in 1815. The ceiling is richly adorned, and panelled into gothic and ornamental compartments, on which are displayed the armorial bearings of the first and subsequent trustees. It contains a valuable collection of printed books and manuscripts, presented at different times and by various individuals; one side being occupied by the library of the late Dr. Taylor, editor of Demosthenes. Among the portraits which decorate the walls of this ele-

gant apartment are those of the Bishop of Lichfield (late head-master), the Reverends John Lloyd and Leonard Hotchkiss (formerly masters), Queen Elizabeth, King Henry VIII. Edward VI. (the Founder), Locke, Judge Jeffries, &c. &c.

At the south end of the room are four sepulchral stones, found at Wroxeter, near this town, a century ago, which are fully described in the "Salopia Antiqua." A small museum likewise contains other Roman antiquities from the same place, with fossils and other curiosities.

The windows are embellished with escutcheons of the arms of Edward VI. Queen Elizabeth, St. John's College, Cambridge, the See of Lichfield, and the town, in stained glass.

In front and at the back of the schools is a spacious area, used as a promenade or play-ground for the scholars; contiguous to which are houses for the head, second, and assistant masters, and ample halls for the accommodation of boarders, who are numerous, and from all parts of the kingdom.

There are *twenty-six* exhibitions, fellowships, and scholarships, to which the scholars of this school are entitled, or have claim; forms of the notices to be given by or on behalf of any scholar desirous of becoming a candidate may be had on application to the head or second masters, or to the school bailiff, J. J. Peele, Esq.

Four Foundation Exhibitions of £70 each for seven years, one of £66, and another of £100, for four years, for scholars of the school, being sons of burgesses of Shrewsbury, born in the town; or in the suburbs thereof. In de-

fault scholars born in the parish of Chirbury;—or if none, within the County of Salop.

The last mentioned, is entitled "DR. BUTLER'S EXHIBITION," and was founded by the trustees, May 23rd, 1836, in order to perpetuate the memory, of the unremitting assiduity and eminent ability with which Dr. Butler had performed the duties of head master of this school for a period of thirty-eight years,—restoring and augmenting by his energy and learning, the utility and celebrity of this ancient and royal foundation.

Two Scholarships with the above qualification, to St. John's College, Cambridge, £17. 10s. per annum.

Two Exhibitions to St. John's, Cambridge, of the value of £70, until scholars take the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Two Millington Exhibitions of £20 each for eight years, to boys from Millington's Hospital, or born in Frankwell, and educated at this school.

Two Exhibitions founded by Rev. Oswald Smith, £25 each for seven years, to either of the Universities. Relations of the founder if educated here, otherwise to sons of burgesses born in the town, first, otherwise to the like in the suburbs, and in default any scholars born in the county.

Five Exhibitions founded by Mr. Edward Careswell, for boys, natives of Shropshire, and educated here,; to Christ Church, Oxford. Annual value, from £60.

Four Scholarships from a bequest of Dr. Millington, £63 each, for eight years, and *one Fellowship* of £126 per annum, to Magdalene College, Cambridge, for relations of the said Dr. Millington if educated here, or for boys who had been in the school for two years.

Dr. Taylor's Exhibition, to either Oxford or Cambridge, of £23 per annum, for four years, to a youth educated here.

Mrs. Noneley £10 for four years, and Mr. Podmore £30 per annum for four years, to a Shropshire boy, to Trinity College, Cambridge.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHARTERS, &c.

SHREWSBURY has received a succession of thirty-two royal charters from the time of King William the First to the first year of the reign of James the Second. The earliest charter preserved in the corporation archives is dated Nov. 11, 1189, being the first year of King Richard the First, which recites that a previous corporation had existed. The last governing charter of the town was granted the 16th of June, 1639, by Charles the First, by which the component parts of the corporation were a mayor, recorder, steward, common clerk, twenty-four aldermen, forty-eight assistants or common councilmen, two chamberlains, &c.

Burgesses obtained their freedom by descent, or birth, or by serving a bona fide apprenticeship of seven years within the ancient limits of the borough to a freeman of one of the ancient incorporated companies. The municipal Act of 1835 reserves the privilege of becoming ancient Freemen to all persons who by the then existing customs of the borough had, or should hereafter have that right, those, however, who claim by *birth only* in the ancient borough cannot hereafter be registered as voters.

According to the Municipal Act, which received the royal assent in 1835, the town was divided into five wards.*

On the 26th of December, 1835, each of the wards returned six members to form the new Town Council, who elected to their number, on the 31st, ten aldermen, which constitutes the governing body of the town, from whom a mayor is elected annually, on Nov. 9th. To assist in the administration of justice, the Secretary of State has appointed twelve magistrates.

The ancient COMMON SEAL of the body corporate is very curious, representing a view of the town,—its churches, domestic habitations, fortified gates and walls, beneath which the river is seen flowing under a bridge; above the latter is a shield bearing the arms of England, and on each side are similar shields charged with the cross of St. George and the town arms,—Azure, three leopard's faces Or. The inscription round this seal is—Sigillu . commune . libertatis . bille . Salopesburie . factu . ano . gre . m ccc xxb.

The regalia and plate of the corporation is handsome, and may be estimated at more than a thousand pounds in value. It comprises an elegant broad sword of state, the hilt, guard and pommel being of silver double gilt, and the latter adorned with figures of Justice and Fame in high relief. At the points of intersection of the guard and blade are the arms of Charles II, and those of the town. There are five

* The old liberties of the borough extended a few miles round Shrewsbury. A large part of this ancient boundary, possessing a property of the annual value of fifty thousand pounds, and which formerly used to contribute to the rates levied in connexion with the town, is now taken from the liberties and annexed to the county.

silver maces, the three smallest 200 years old, the two largest, double gilt, were purchased in 1820.

The massive and magnificent tankard, enriched with figures in high relief of commerce, agriculture, manufactures, &c. was presented by the great Lord Clive, in 1760, and the gorgeous silver salver, richly enchased with wreaths, fruit, &c. by his son the Earl of Powis. Their united weight is three hundred ounces.

In 1849 the late Admiral Sir Edward W. C. R. Owen presented to the body corporate, a solid tripod epergne, silver gilt, of the most chaste and elegant design. It stands 22 inches high, and is supported by six turtles, two at each foot, with shells and clusters of coral. On the angles which separate each face is displayed in high relief a sugar cane; either compartment being severally surrounded with a rich Grecian border in basso relievo, having an open flower at the corners. In the centre, within a beautiful wreath of tropical flowers, is engraved the armorial bearings of the gallant Admiral, and an inscription denoting its original presentation in 1823, from the Merchants of Kingston, Jamaica, to himself. On the summit of the tripod stands a rock amidst waves, from the latter are emerging three bold sea-horses, on whose heads rest a splendid chama shell, to contain fruit, flowers, &c. At the base of the respective compartments is an extended alligator, being the crest of the armorial bearings of Jamaica.

It has been the custom with the municipal body as far back as the time of Edward I. to honour the arrival of distinguished personages with "a courtesy" or gift, a vestige of which still exists in the present reception of the Judges of assize, when the mayor, attended by the corporation,

wait upon them at their lodgings, on which occasion, the splendid tankard above noticed, is filled with a racy compound of nectar, called "mayor's cup," this, with cake and wine, is handed round, and a present of sugar left as a compliment.

At the town hall is a curious relic called a "*bridle*," used in days of yore, as a check for scolding, or noisy women. It consists of a hoop of iron, made to encircle the neck, from this proceeds an arch, with a plate, or "gag" to enter the mouth, by which the tongue is so compressed, that the most loquacious scold is at once rendered unintelligible.

SESSIONS.

A petty sessions is held every Tuesday, and the mayor or some of the magistrates sit most days for the determination of minor offences.

A general court of QUARTER SESSIONS and gaol delivery for the town and liberties is held by the recorder, on the Monday in the county sessions week.

COURT OF RECORD.

This town possesses the privilege of a court of record, where actions for debt (to any amount) and ejectment within the liberties can be brought. Judgment in a suit may be obtained in about six weeks, if the defendant pleads the general issue.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

The town is a borough by prescription, and has sent two members to parliament from the earliest assembling of that body. Previously to the general reform act the right of

election was in the burgesses inhabiting within the ancient borough, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms or charity. The elective franchise is now extended to £10 householders resident within the boundaries settled by act of parliament, July 15th, 1832.

TRADING COMPANIES.

The incorporation of various trades and fraternities in the principal towns of the kingdom was a remarkable feature of the 15th century, although in many places these were preceded by the foundation of *Guilds*, whose origin was anterior to any charters or registers now extant, as their formation may be obscurely traced, even beyond the date of any remaining records.

A Merchant Guild was established in Shrewsbury as a voluntary association, as early as the year 1209, and there is a probability that it existed in the Saxon time, from a roll among the municipal archives of the town being inscribed "*names of the thanes men*," a word of Saxon origin. In the charter granted to the town by Henry III. in 1227, it is ordered that no person who was not a member of the *Guild* should exercise merchandize in the borough without the consent of the burgesses.

These Guilds further combined a pious provision for religious duties, and oftentimes would build an additional chapel, chancel, or aisle, to the parish church where they occasionally assembled, or erect a distinct edifice for their own especial accommodation. The roll of persons forming our Salopian Guild in the time of King John is prefaced with this solemn invocation, "May the Holy Spirit be present with us."

From a remote period several incorporated trading companies existed here, who exacted fines from what were termed "foreigners;" that is, individuals who had not served an apprenticeship to a freeman, or who were not the eldest sons of freemen, if they commenced business in the "craft or calling" of any of these guilds; the chief of which were the Company of Drapers, and Mercers, *Goldsmiths, &c.;* the former possessed considerable property, and were incorporated by Edward IV, 12th Jan. 1461-2, as were the latter by the same king in 1480, entries, however, occur of admission of freemen to this company in 1425. THE SADDLERS, PAINTERS, &c. were also incorporated by royal charter from Edw. IV, 8th May, 1479. The composition of THE BARBER CHIRURGEONS 32 Edw. I, 1304, and incorporated with the WAX and TALLOW CHANDLERS by James II, 1686. The royal charter of THE SHOEMAKERS is dated at Westminster, 12th Nov. 1387, and recites a charter of Edw. III. A composition was also obtained by them in 1561. THE VINTERERS 14 Hen. IV, 1412, WEAVERS 27 Hen. VI, 1448-9.—CARPENTERS and TYLERS, 28 Hen. VI, 1449-50.—FLETCHERS, COOPERS, and BOWYERS, 27 Hen. VI, 1449.—TAILORS and SKINNERS 39 Hen. VI, 1460.—SMITHS, ARMOURERS, &c. have a composition 19 James I, 1621.—FISHMONGERS 1423.—It is certain that the MILLERS, BAKERS, COOKS, BUTCHERS, and SHEARMEN, had compositions before 1479, as they are included in the order then made for the rank and precedence of the several companies on the day of Corpus Christi. THE MILLERS existed until the time of Elizabeth. There were also companies of TANNERS, GLOVERS, &c. in 1479, although they, like several other "crafts," have now only left a name behind; and those companies that have been enumerated

above, sometimes comprehended in their "compositions" more trades than have been specified. Their utility in the infancy of commerce, as so many brotherhoods for the protection of different trading interests, is evident; but having survived the original purpose of institution, their advantage (unless as social bodies) had been long questioned, and the powers which they possessed became defunct under the recent municipal Act. Many of them still hold their annual meetings for relaxation, &c., the remains of which is observed in the anniversary of the "Show."

SHREWSBURY SHOW.

This annual pageant is perhaps, with the exception of Coventry, and the Guild at Preston in Lancashire, the only one of the kind in the kingdom. It originated chiefly in the celebration of the splendid festival of "Corpus Christi" in the church of Rome, which was observed with much pomp and solemnity by the masters and wardens of the different trading companies, the members of the corporation, the parochial clergy, and the religious fraternities of the town.

The procession, so far back as the 27th of Henry VI. appears to have been "tyme owt of mynde," and which several of the guilds were obliged to support. This is apparent from their "compositions," or bye-laws, containing regulations to that effect. That of the Weavers (anno 1444) provides, that certain fines shall be applied to

the " sustentacon and encreece of the lyght of the seyd " crafte of Wev's, at the feast of Corpus Xp'i daye." The composition of the Mercers, Ironmongers, and Goldsmiths directs that they shall provide " 300 mede of wax yearly, " to be burnt in the p'cession of the feast of Corpus Xp'i."

After the Reformation, the religious part of the ceremony was set aside, and as a substitute the second Monday after Trinity Sunday adopted as a day of recreation and feasting on Kingsland, where each company had, by favour of the corporation, a small plot of ground allotted to them, which being enclosed and surrounded by trees, was called an " arbour," and where refreshment was accustomed to be liberally provided by the respective trades. Only seven of the arbours now remain, each of which had formerly the arms of the company carved or painted over the entrance.

The anniversary has often been anticipated by Salopians as affording a season of recreation and hospitality to distant friends who endeavoured to meet on the occasion, when the town presents an appearance of lively interest, as the various companies are passing to their places of muster. At noon they assemble together in Castle-street, from whence they proceed through the streets to Kingsland, accompanied by various bands of music, flags and banners, emblazoned with the arms, or emblematical of the insignia of the respective Companies, each of whom is preceded by a character dressed in personification of a king, or illustrative of ancient pageantry, and being followed by a goodly array of Com-brethren walking (as it were) hand in hand together, presents a lively picture, as in memory of those days, and olden times, when the different classes of society participated in the enjoyment of each other, and could afford to set aside any differences

in a holiday of social and joyous festivity. The mayor and corporation and friends follow afterwards, and were formerly entertained by the trading companies with a dejeune in each arbour.*

THE COUNTY HALL

Is from a design by Sir Robert Smirke, and the style Italian; the main feature of the elevation being a bold cornice resting on sculptured modillions.† The principal front is formed into three divisions by projecting string courses, and is 112½ feet in length; the portion facing High-street, 58 feet; height to the top of parapet 54 feet.

On examining the interior of the structure, it will be evident that the architect has made the most of a limited space of ground: the different apartments are convenient, lofty, and well adapted to the various purposes for which they are intended. The offices in particular, although plain, are fitted up in a most substantial manner.

The entrance hall is 22 feet 8 inches by 21½ feet, having on the right a lobby leading to the crown court, and a room for the use of witnesses waiting for examination in that court. On the left is a similar entrance to the nisi

* A more extended account of this pageant, by the author of "Memorials of Shrewsbury," will be found in the Gentleman's Magazine for July, 1833, and in some account of "Ancient Guilds, Trading Companies, and the Origin of Shrewsbury Show," by the same author, 1849.

† It forms the frontispiece to this volume.

prius court, and the mayor's room (appropriated to counsel during the assizes.) Opposite the entrance door is the grand staircase, spacious and of easy ascent; on the first landing are three doorways, the centre one leading to the judges' retiring room (which communicates with the courts), and those on either hand to the magisterial bench in the respective courts, which are of equal dimensions, 42ft. by 36ft.

The bench is elevated $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the floor, on each side of which is accommodation for the magistrates. The space immediately before the judge is occupied by a large table, with sufficient seats for twenty counsellors, having a row of seats behind for attornies.

The ceiling of both courts is panelled and ornamented, and the walls lined with wood as high as the base of the side galleries, which are for the use of the grand and special jurors. In each court is a gallery for the public, the two front benches being set apart for jurymen in waiting. To these galleries are separate entrances from the principal front, in order to prevent the annoyance of a crowd in the vestibule of the hall, through which there is access for those who have business in the courts.

Under the public galleries are lock-up rooms for the jury.

The nisi prius court is lighted chiefly by a lantern in the ceiling: and beneath the public gallery is the waiting-room for witnesses.* The first story of the hall is approached by a broad flight of stairs: on the left is the grand jury room, 30 feet by 18 feet, lofty and finished in a tasteful manner,

* On either side of the Judges' seat are full-length portraits of King George III. and Queen Charlotte, by Ramsay.

having a communication with the gallery in the crown court for the presentation of bills. Attached to this apartment is a large room for witnesses attending the grand jury; the floor is of stone, and forms the ceiling of the entrance hall. To the right is the county treasurer's office.

From this division of the building the staircase leads to the entrance of the GREAT ROOM, adapted for a third court or other public purposes. It is decorated with an enriched cornice and panelled ceiling; the dimensions are 45½ feet by 32½ feet, and 19 feet high, having a recess at one end; and is ventilated by means of tubes which pass from the ceiling through the roof.

By another ascent of steps the upper floor is gained. To the right are offices for the clerk of the peace for the county, with a fire-proof room as a depository for records. Similar rooms to the left are appropriated for the town clerk.

In the rear of the building is a house for the hall-keeper, and in High-street an entrance for the van conveying prisoners from the gaol, where they are set down in an area having stairs leading to spacious and airy cells; these, with apartments for other purposes, occupy a portion of the basement of the building, which stands upon a concrete foundation, 10 feet thick, rendered necessary (from the insufficient state of the ground) to support the weight of a massive structure. In excavating for this purpose, many curiosities were found; and although the required depth was 19 feet below the level of the street, the natural strata was not discovered, the whole bed being a complete bog of peaty soil of unequal depth,—a sufficient cause for the fissures long visible in the external and internal walls of the former fabric, which was only completed in 1785, at a cost of £11,000.

In 1832, Thomas Telford, Esq. was requested to examine the nature of the foundations, when it appeared that the oak sapling piles, or rather stakes, on which the building rested were totally decayed. To restore the walls to a sound state was deemed a difficult and expensive undertaking, even if practicable. A new building was therefore determined upon, Sir Robert Smirke having guaranteed a sufficient foundation on the old site, by taking out the whole of the soil, and replacing it with an artificial body of concrete. His plan was adopted by the county magistrates, Jan. 28th, 1834, and in the month of April workmen commenced taking down the old edifice,* and the new building progressed towards completion so as to be ready by March, 1837, and does great credit to the contractors, Messrs. Birch and Sons. The estimated cost was £12,000, raised by a county rate.

THE GUILD HALL AND EXCHEQUER

of the town is incorporated with the county hall, by an arrangement with the county previously to the erection of the late edifice.

The following portraits, presented to the old corporation, decorate the walls of the grand jury room :—King Charles I. Charles II. William III. George I. George II. Admiral Benbow (a native of Shrewsbury), the late Right Hon. Lord Viscount Hill (by Sir William Beechy), and the late Admiral Owen (by R. Evans, Esq. a townsman.)

* This structure was 111 feet by 51 ; its exteriour feature was a bold pediment, supported by four three-quarter columns of the Ionic order.

THE MARKET HOUSE

is a spacious building, unequalled in point of ornamental decoration by any similar structure in the kingdom. It not only gives a most prominent feature to the area in front of the county hall, but is a general and interesting object of attraction to strangers.

The principal front is to the west, over the portal of which are the arms of Queen Elizabeth in high relief, and the date 1596. On each side of this portal is an open arcade, consisting of three round arches, which form the main building; above these is a series of square mullioned windows, surmounted by a rich fanciful parapet consisting of curved embrasures, which rise at certain distances into a kind of pinnacle.

Above the northern arch is the following inscription, having on one side the arms of France and England quarterly, and on the other those of the town:—

> The xvth day of June was this building begun,
> William Jones and Thomas Charlton, Gent. then
> Bailiffs, and was erected and covered in their time.
>
> 1596.

Immediately over this is a tabernacled niche, containing a fine statue of RICHARD DUKE OF YORK, in complete armour; one hand is supported on his breast, and the other pointing below to a device of three roses carved as growing on one stalk, and which appears on the Duke's great seal. A tablet corresponding with the town arms, finely sculptured in relief, on the left hand of the figure, records its removal from the tower on the Welsh bridge, in 1791. In the same situation on the south end of the hall is the figure of an angel in a canopied niche, bearing a shield of the arms of France and England quarterly, with the union rose. This originally stood within the chamber of the Gate Tower at the Castle Gates, from whence it was preserved when the remaining portion of that ancient barrier gave way to modern houses in 1825.

The basement of the Market House is 105 feet long by 24 feet wide, and is used on Saturdays as the corn-market; at other times it forms an useful promenade, especially in wet weather. In 1848 and 9 the western and southern sides were repaired at the expense of the late Rev. R. Scott, and the other portions by the corporation.

The inscription on the north end has often excited surprise, how so large and ornamental a building could have been completed within a period of less than four months. The nature of the case would seem, that the stone-work and timber-framing had perhaps previously been wrought, so that no time might be lost, and the utmost endeavours used, in the re-edification of a building which was almost indispensible at that period,—when corn was for the most part brought to market in the *bulk*, and not sold by *sample* as in the present day. This conjecture is somewhat confirmed by the following extract from a manuscript chronicle in the possession of the writer:—

"1595. In the month of January this year the old building in the Corn Market Place was agreed to be taken down, and the timber-work thereof was sold, and another with all speed was to be erected with stone and timber in the same place, and a sumptuous hall aloft, with a spacious market house below for corn was begun, the foundation and fencing whereof was a quarter of a year before it was finished, and the stone work was begun upon the 15th day of June following, and was finished and almost covered in before the bailiffs of the said year went out of their office the Michaelmas following."

THE PUBLIC ROOMS AND MUSIC HALL,

situated on the south-western side of the market house, has a bold front of four attached Ionic columns resting on piers, and supporting an entablature and pediment, the intercolumniations being occupied by windows. In the basement are entrances to the MUSIC HALL, NEWS ROOM, POLICE STATION, and POST and STAMP OFFICES, &c.

The building was erected from a design by Mr. Haycock, and the first stone laid March 18th, 1839.

THE PUBLIC NEWS ROOM

occupies nearly two-thirds of the front portion of the first floor, and is a handsome apartment. It contains a full-length portrait of the late Rev. R. Scott, by Sir Thomas Phillips, R. A. and a half-length of our townsman Professor Lee, &c. It was opened to the members Sept. 1st, 1840, and is well supplied with the daily London and local newspapers, periodicals, and other publications of useful and general reference. The annual subscription is one guinea and a half, and members have the privilege of introducing non-residents of the town and county. Above this apartment is a spacious and well regulated billiard room.

THE MUSIC HALL

is 90 feet long, by 42 feet wide, and 38 high, and is considered by those learned in acoustics to be most favourable for musical effect. The length as is seen, something more than double the width, and the heighth, the third of the length. The ceiling is coved towards the sides, and laid out in panelled compartments.

The orchestra is gradually elevated, and painted French white, classic figures gilded, rest on the pillars by which it is supported; the three front compartments being filled with plate glass, and at the angles are carved candelabras in white and gold.

A series of Ionic pilasters, painted in imitation of sienna marble, surround the interior of the hall, the same marble is continued on the dado, the frieze and entablature, the bases, mouldings, &c. of which, being all relieved with white, and the cornice in light veined marble.

These enrichments were done at the expense of the late Rev. R. Scott, by Mr. Birch, to assimilate with which, the organ (the gift of the same benefactor) is painted French white, and the mouldings enriched with gold. This instrument was made by Bishop, of London, in 1837, and enlarged in 1840. The cost was £600. It consists of a great organ, scale from G. G. to F.—in alt 58 notes. Great organ 8 stops, 565 pipes. Swell from tenor E. to F. 6 stops, 228 pipes. Pedal pipes C. C. C. to D. 27 notes. Total, 820 pipes, 2 couplers, 7 composition pedals.

It is vested in nine trustees for the use of the Choral Society at their public and private rehearsals of music, so long as the society shall exist, and to be used for such other musical purposes generally in the town, as the trustees shall think likely to promote the science of music.

The Contractor for the building was Mr. Stant, which with the fittings and land cost upwards of £12,000.

THE SAVINGS' BANK,

on College-hill, (adjoining the cemetery of Old St. Chad's Church), has a chaste appearance, and was designed by Mr. Haycock. The principal front consists of a rusticated base, pierced with a circular-headed window on each side of the entrance, surmounted by four pilasters with moulded caps, on which is an Ionic entablature, finished by a pediment. The interior, in addition to the apartments requisite for the dispatch of business, contains a residence for the actuary. It was opened to the depositors Nov. 24th, 1839, and cost, with the site, about £2000. Business is transacted on Mondays and Saturdays, from half-past eleven until half-past one o'clock.

THE BRIDGES.

Two handsome stone bridges cross the river Severn in a direction at right angles. These were preceded by very ancient structures, defended by embattled towers, and were excellent specimens of the fortified bridges necessary in former times for the protection of the town. Being extremely narrow and dilapidated, they were taken down in the last century; a brief notice, therefore, of their ancient state will be sufficient.

THE OLD WELSH BRIDGE

was considered as the chief architectural ornament of the town, consisting of seven arches, and situated a few yards

higher up the stream than the present structure. Its gates and towers at each end were of the finest kind of castellated building, being richly decorated with shields and sculpture; and their demolition is much to be regretted.

Above one of the gates stood the armed statue of a knight, which was removed in 1791, and placed in a niche on the front of the Market House. This effigy was an important object of attraction to the Welshmen in passing through the gate, from a tradition retained by them even to modern times, that it represented Llewelyn Prince of Wales, or David, the last of the British Princes, whom Roger Coke facetiously calls "King Taffy," but which recent antiquaries have, from its attendant embellishments, more properly assigned to Richard Duke of York, father of Edward IV.

THE OLD EAST OR STONE BRIDGE

consisted rather of two bridges (being divided by an island 118 feet broad), extending 864 feet in length, and comprising seventeen arches. The thoroughfare over it in the widest part was only twelve feet, being impeded by a range of thirty-three houses disposed on each side, after the manner of London Bridge in former times.

The further bridge from the town had eleven arches, and was properly denominated "THE ABBEY BRIDGE," for it extended to the precinct of the monastery, and passed none of the water of the Severn except in times of flood, receiving only a small portion of a rivulet called Meole Brook, the channel of which is still visible in the meadows opposite the Council House.

The narrow state of this bridge having been long matter

of complaint and inconvenience, a subscription was commenced in 1765 to widen it, towards which Sir John Astley, Bart. gave £1000.

The expediency of the undertaking was so apparent, from the liberal subscriptions which came in from all parts of the county, that encouragement was given to erect an entire new structure, from a design furnished by Mr. John Gwynn, architect, of London, and a native of Shrewsbury. The first stone was laid June 29th, 1769, by the munificent promoter of the undertaking, Sir John Astley, Bart.; and the work was so far completed as to afford a passage (March 14th, 1774) for the High Sheriff, John Owen, Esq. of Woodhouse, and a numerous body of gentlemen on horseback who accompanied him to meet the judges of assize, whom they escorted into town over the new bridge, since styled

THE ENGLISH BRIDGE,

which is a most substantial structure, 410ft. in length, and composed of seven arches, crowned by a bold balustrade; the primary object in its construction was to contrive as much space as possible for the water during floods, to accomplish which, the central arch (60 feet in diameter) was raised double the height of the end arches, an elevation perhaps not accordant with or agreeable to later opinions of ease and convenience. With the exception of this defect, its elegance and beauty of architecture is probably surpassed by few bridges in the kingdom, and is in every respect an ornament to the town, and an equally noble monument of the public spirit and generosity of the gentry of the county, who so laudably exerted themselves to further its erection.

The ornamental parts, though sparingly are yet tastefully

disposed. The key-stone of the central arch on the north side is adorned with a fine head of SABRINA, "goddess of the river," while that on the opposite side bears a spirited head of NEPTUNE, the "father of fountains." On the piers of this arch rest finely carved dolphins. The key-stones of the other arches are worked into a shell. The parapet of the bridge rises into a pediment, in the centre of which (on each side facing the river) is the town arms, and the date of the completion of the bridge, MDCCLXXIV.

The total cost, including the purchase of the houses which stood on and near the bridge, acts of parliament, &c. was £15,710. 3s. 3d.

LORD HILL'S COLUMN.

This noble column, erected in honour of the VALOUR and VIRTUES of an individual whose well-earned laurels gained him a firm affection in the hearts of his countrymen, and truly rendered him SALOPIA'S PRIDE and ENGLAND'S GLORY, stands on a rising ground at the entrance of the town from the London road, and forms an interesting object to the adjacent country. It is said to be the largest Grecian Doric column in the world.

The first stone was laid by the Salopian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, on the 27th December, 1814, and the last, June 18th, 1816.

The pedestal is square, rising upon two steps, with a large pier at each angle, on which are placed lions couchant, worked out of Grinshill stone by Mr. Carline, of this town.

The diameter at the base is 15 feet, and the other dimensions are as follow:—

Pedestal, 13ft. 6in. Shaft and capital, 91ft. 6in. Pedestal for the figure, 11ft. 6in. Statue of his lordship, 17ft. Total height, 133ft. 6in.

The colossal statue on the summit is executed in artificial stone by Messrs. Coade and Sealy, of London, modelled by Panzetta. The original design for the column was by Mr. Haycock, of Shrewsbury. The contractors were Messrs. Simpson and Lawrence; on the death of the former, the work devolved upon Mr. Straphen, by whom it was completed.

On the pedestal are the following inscriptions :

ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

Civi . svo . Rolando
Domino . Baroni . Hill . ab . Almarez . et Hawkstone
Popvlares . evis . ex . agro . atqve . municipio . Salopiensi
Colvmnam . hancce . cvm . statva . P. C.
A . S . MDCCCXVI.
Is . in . re . militari . qvemadmodvm . se . gesserit
Testes . sint . Lvsitania . Hispani . Galliae
Narbonensis . ac . Belgica
Artvrivs . Dvx . a . Wellington
Sociorvm . et . qvidem . hostivm . exercitvs.

ON THE NORTH SIDE.

To Lieutenant General Rowland Lord Hill,
Baron Hill of Almarez and Hawkstone, G.C.B.
Not more distinguished for his skill and courage in the field,
During the arduous campaigns in Spain and Portugal,
The South of France, and the memorable Plains of Waterloo,
Than for his benevolent and paternal care,
In providing for the comforts and supplying the necessities
Of his victorious countrymen,
And for that humanity and generosity
Which their vanquished foes experienced and acknowledged.
The inhabitants of the Town and County of Salop
Have erected this Column and Statue,
As a memorial of their respect and gratitude to an illustrious contemporary,
And an incitement to emulation in the heroes and patriots of future ages.
A.D. MDCCCXVI.

ON THE EAST SIDE.

Roleia	Arroyo del Molinos	Hillette
Vimiera	Almarez	Orthes
Corunna	Vittoria	Aire
Douro	Pyrenees	Tarbes
Talavera	Nive	Toulouse
Busaco	Nivelle	Waterloo.

This splendid memorial is constructed of fine Grinshill stone; the total expence, including the cottage and other incidentals, amounted to £5973. 13s. 2d. which was raised by a subscription throughout the county.

Within the shaft is a staircase of 172 steps, forming a well in the centre, each step having an iron baluster with a gilt letter inserted on a small panel, which gives the following inscription:—

"This staircase was the gift of John Straphen, the builder, as his donation towards erecting this Column. The first stone of the foundation was laid December 27th, 1814, and completed June 18th, 1816, the anniversary of the glorious battle of Waterloo."

The column may be ascended by a gratuity to the keeper, who resides in a neat Doric cottage adjoining.

From the railing at the top is a delightful panoramic view of the fertile plain of Shropshire, to which the bold appearance of Shrewsbury, and its once formidable Castle mantled with leafy verdure, forms a prominent contrast.

The surrounding distances are replete with interest, being composed of fine undulating hills and mountains. Proceeding northward, the eye ranges over the Nesscliff and Selattyn hills, the mountainous tract of the Berwyn, the luxuriantly crowned summit of Pimhill, the wild and romantic rock of Grinshill, and the gentler eminences of Hawkstone, whose tasteful plantations and noble woods are seen at a distance of twelve miles, among which rises the "Obelisk," erected to the memory of Sir Rowland Hill, the first Protestant Mayor of London.

In the foreground north-east is the plain, renowned in history, and immortalized by Shakspeare in dramatic poetry, as the scene of the great and important battle of Shrewsbury, in 1403, in commemoration of which King Henry IV. piously founded a church, called to this day "Battlefield," the well-proportioned tower of which is easily distinguished.

Further eastward are the venerable and picturesque ruins of Haghmond Monastery, founded in the year 1100, for canons of the order of St. Augustine. Near the remains of this once more noble pile is the wooded ascent of Haghmond Hill, and its castellated Shooting Tower, beneath which is the retired village of Uffington and its primitive church.

Direct east stands exalted in noble majesty the isolated WREKIN, the *natural Heart of Shropshire*, in front of which appears the exuberant foliage surrounding Longner Hall. Directing the eye southwards, is Charlton Hill, bounded by the towering summit of the Brown Clee (1820 feet in height), and the Lawley, Acton Burnell Park, Frodesley, and other Shropshire hills, among which is the lofty Caerdoc, otherwise Caer Caradoc.

Onward in the horizon, beyond a remote cultivated country, is the Longmynd with its straight outline, and the Stiperstones, topped by rocks, similar to the august relics of castellated grandeur; these are connected by the Bromlow and Long Mountain; and the panorama terminates with the lofty mountains of Breidden, Cefn y Cayster, and Moelygolfa, which, with more distant eminences, form a fine back-ground to a portion of the town, while the middle distance all around is unequalled for richness and fertility.

Nor, whilst extolling the environs and distant scenes around, let us forget the immediate vicinity of the Column: its verdant pastures, sequestered lanes, stately trees, and rural scenery, are surpassed by none so near a populous town.

THE TOWN AND COUNTY GAOL

Is situated on a beautiful and salubrious eminence, a short distance from the Castle.

The front of the prison displays rather a bold appearance, having two rusticated stone lodges and a gateway in the centre; over the latter is an excellent bust of the philanthropic HOWARD, by Bacon.

The interior possesses every convenience appropriate to its purpose that sagacity and humanity can devise. It is spacious, airy, and well supplied with water, by means of a pump worked by the prisoners.

The governor's house faces the gateway, and forms the southern front of the building. The chapel stands in the centre of the whole, and is lighted by a lantern surmounted by a gilt cross. It is octagonal, and contrived that while all the prisoners may see the clergyman, every class is so separated as to be hid from each other.

The prison is further divided into eight principal courts, besides other smaller ones; these are surrounded by cloisters with groined arches; above these are the sleeping cells, the communication to which is by railed galleries. A due

regard to the gradations of vice is strictly observed in the classification of the prisoners, most of whom are occupied during the day in some little manufactory or useful employment, by which habits of industry are acquired that may protect them from temptations to plunder or misconduct when released from confinement.

Executions take place on the roof of the porter's lodge.

The prison was begun in 1787, and completed (from a plan by Mr. Haycock) in 1793, at an expense of about £30,000. The entire building is surrounded by a strong brick wall, flanked with rusticated stone buttresses.

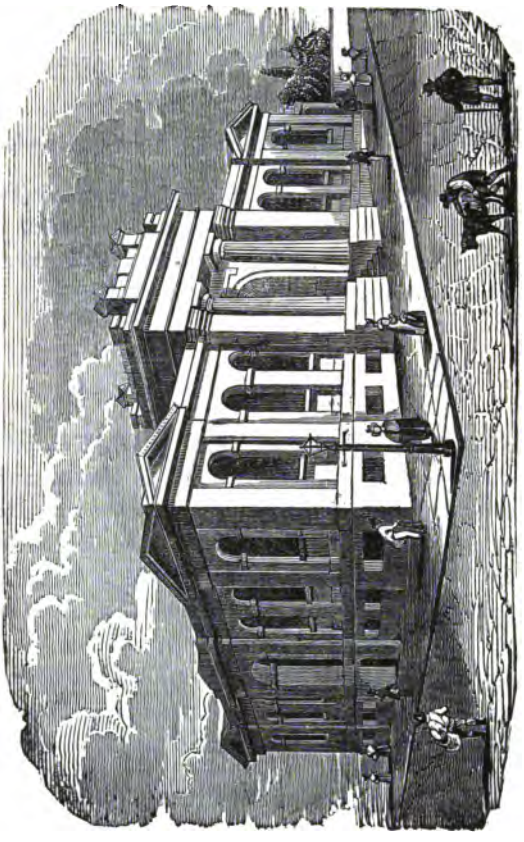
BUTTER MARKET, PRIDE HILL,

was rebuilt and opened Aug. 10th, 1844. The principal front forms a pediment resting on a plain cornice, and supported by four attached Doric columns. On two sides are shops for the sale of small wares. The interior is 100 feet long by 33 wide, with an open roof, and is calculated to seat nearly 500 persons. It was designed by Mr. Haycock, the cost of erection being £1288, in addition to which, £1600 was expended for extra land and houses. The money was raised partly by a subscription, and from the funds of the corporation. The market is free.

THE CIRCUS BUTTER AND CHEESE MARKET,

near the Welsh bridge, possesses facilities for the conveyance of goods and general trade. It was opened about the year 1822 by Mr. H. Newton.

HOWARD STREET BUTTER & CHEESE MARKET



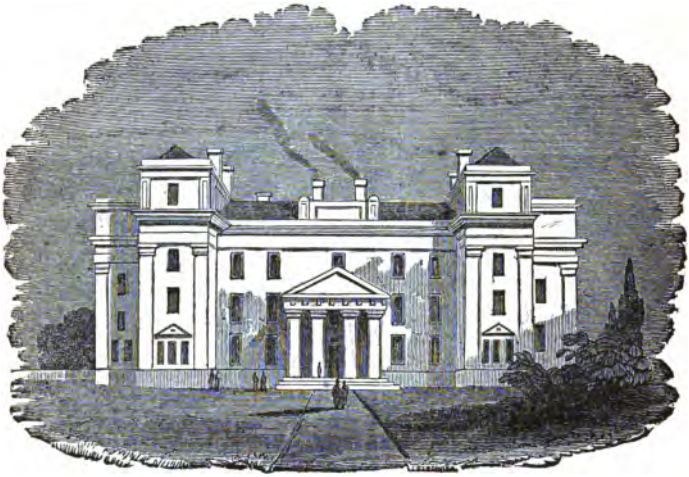
Is a commodious edifice situate in Howard-street, Castle-foregate, and possesses every requisite convenience for the disposal of butter, cheese, and other agricultural produce, and merchandize.

The exterior consists of a centre and two wings, the centre forming the portico and principal entrance, which is decorated with two Grecian Doric columns and entablature. The whole of the front is cemented, and possesses an unity of parts and a boldness of proportion unusual in buildings of this description.

The interior is divided into two stories, the lower or basement being vaulted with groined arches springing from brick piers, which afford an equality of height in almost every part. The entrance to the basement is on the north side, and (owing to the fall of the street) is of sufficient height to admit a waggon. The canal is on the south side, to which there is a communication, affording a ready transit for goods. The upper or principal floor of the market contains an area of 5400 feet; the roof is supported by four rows of iron pillars; the centre part being raised nine feet, has a range of windows on each side, by which a proper ventilation is obtained as well as additional light. At the upper end is a second entrance, communicating with an office for the clerk.

The edifice was commenced May 28th, 1835, and completed by that time in the next year. Architects, Fallows and Hart, of Birmingham. The building is the property of J. B. Minor, Esq. of Astley House.

THE SALOP INFIRMARY.



From a remote period the virtuous breast has cultivated the desire of mitigating, as far as possible, the pain and wretchedness consequent upon disease and suffering,—hence we find that the munificence which characterised our forefathers centuries ago was not altogether confined to the erection of numerous places for Divine Worship, and for which our town was early distinguished, but sympathy prompted them also to build and endow "Hospitals" for the reception of the sick and diseased, and "Almshouses" for the aged and infirm. The first record we possess of the existence of such charitable institutions in Shrewsbury is as early as the time of Henry II, beside an "Infirmary" founded within the precinct of the abbey, as an asylum for diseased and superannuated monks, a fragment of which erection yet remains.

The rapacity, however, which disgraced the dissolution of Monasteries and whatever sustained the character of a "Religious House," has, with a solitary exception, rendered these ancient Hospitals defunct. Early in the last century public attention was particularly directed to the foundation of Hospitals or Infirmaries, and it may be no mean compliment to our town and county to mention that its inhabitants in 1745 had the distinguished honour of being the fifth in the kingdom to form the way in establishing a Provincial Asylum, on the basis of public benevolence,—THE SALOP INFIRMARY, having commenced its salutary operations April 25th, 1747.

The building which preceded the present stately erection having been originally designed for a private residence, and although repeatedly enlarged and improved, was found to be insufficient for the accommodation of the additional number of patients consequent upon an increasing population, as well as inconvenient in many respects for its main purpose. It was resolved, at a meeting held Nov. 16, 1826, that a new Infirmary should be built on the site of the old one, at a cost of about £16,000. As there was, however, much disinclination on the part of the subscribers present to take so large a sum from the funded stock of the institution, the chief portion of which was considered as having been bequeathed for its *support*, a subscription was begun, when £4,666 was contributed by the noblemen and gentlemen then present,—a truly noble example of SALOPIAN GENEROSITY.

In the month of April, 1827, workmen commenced taking down the old building, and on the 19th of July, the first stone of the new structure was laid by the late Lord Hill,

and opened for patients September 16, 1830. It is of free-stone, and of a plain Grecian character in design, 170 feet long by 80 feet high, having a Doric portico in the centre, the ends projecting with pilasters at each angle.

The interior comprises four stories; in the basement the offices, to the number of twenty-two, are well arranged. The principal floor is appropriated to the board room, dispensary, waiting room for the patients, and admitting rooms for the faculty, with private apartments for the house-surgeon and matron, and two wards for surgical cases.

The first floor is for male patients, and consists of seven wards, with a day-room, scullery, and bath rooms: the upper floor, for female patients, has the same accommodation with the addition of a large and lofty operation room, enclosed by two pair of folding doors, having wards on each side; in the attics are four other wards, with nurses' rooms, &c. The ascent to these apartments is by staircases situated at each end of the building, connected by spacious galleries, which afford the means of free ventilation. In short, whilst the interior accommodations of the Infirmary are highly conducive to the comfort of the inmates, and well adapted for the purpose intended, the external arrangements are so constructed that such of the patients as are able may possess every benefit resulting from exercise and pure air, from a spacious terrace extending beyond the length of the eastern front, where an expansive and interesting view presents itself.

The building was designed by Messrs. Haycock, of this town, the expense of its erection being £18,735. 18s. 10d. of which sum £13,044. 1s. 3d. was raised by public subscriptions and collections, the balance being made up by

the sale of a part of the capital stock of the institution. The Infirmary is liberally supported by subscriptions and benefactions. From its establishment to Midsummer, 1850, the sum of £224,011. 11s. 1d. has been received for its support; 61,097 in-patients admitted, and 122,463 out-patients recommended as fit objects for its benefits.

The average annual expense is about £2540, and the weekly number of patients in the house 100; and 5348 out-patients were admitted and relieved in one year to Midsummer, 1850.

A treasurer is annually elected, and the affairs of the house are managed by eight directors, assisted by a secretary. The directors are chosen from the trustees, who are subscribers of two guineas and upwards per annum, of whom four retire from their office half-yearly.

The domestic arrangements are under the care of a matron; and a surgeon and dispenser with salaries are resident in the house, so that medical aid may be always at hand.

The medical officers of the establishment gratuitously apply their skill in promoting the benevolent design of the institution, and to which is connected, a large and valuable medical library.

A permanent chaplain was appointed in January, 1851; and two weekly visitors from the resident subscribers go round the wards, by which the patients have an opportunity of stating any dissatisfaction that may exist, and having it reported to the board of directors, who assemble every Saturday morning for the dispatch of the ordinary business of the charity, and the admission and discharge of patients.

Every patient must be recommended by a subscriber, except in the case of casualties, and who must attend on Saturdays before eleven o'clock.

The anniversary meeting is held in the Hunt week; when a numerous assemblage of noblemen and gentlemen accompany the treasurer from the Infirmary to St. Chad's church, where a sermon is preached and a collection made in aid of its funds, which always produces a sum truly honourable to the county.

Several tables of legacies and benefactions for the support of the Infirmary are fixed on the walls of the board room; and the cornice is adorned with a series of armorial bearings of all the noblemen and gentlemen who have filled the office of treasurer to the institution.

An auxiliary fund is attached to the hospital, for the purpose of assisting convalescent in-patients in returning to their homes.

THE EYE AND EAR DISPENSARY

was established in 1818. During thirty-two years of its progress 6014 patients have been admitted, and, as among these, several have been restored to the blessing of sight, the institution is deserving of public support. The dispensary is held in Castle-street, under the care of a surgeon. Subscribers of one guinea have the right of recommending two patients within the year.

ST. GILES'S HOSPITAL

was originally founded for the reception of persons afflicted with leprosy—a disease said to have been introduced into England by the Crusaders in the time of Henry I. King Henry II, if not the founder of this hospital, granted to it 30s. yearly (equal to £80 of modern currency) of the rent which he received from the sheriff of Shropshire for the county, towards the support of the infirm or diseased occupants, as well as a small toll upon all corn and flour exposed to sale in Shrewsbury, either on market days or otherwise. The original grant of money is still paid by the sheriff to the Earl of Tankerville, who, as "Master of the Hospital," and holding certain lands for its maintenance, nominates four hospitallers, who have each a comfortable house and garden, adjoining St. Giles's church-yard, with one shilling and sixpence weekly, also a small allowance for coal and clothing annually.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL,

although an asylum "for honest poverty and old age," did not escape the rapacity which characterised the dissolution of religious houses. It stood in the suburb of Frankwell, near a place since called The Stew. Speed notices its site in his map (1610); but not a fragment of the building now remains.

THE DRAPERS' ALMSHOUSES.

The generally received opinion has been that these almshouses were founded, in 1461, by Degory Watur, Draper, from the circumstance that he lived himself in the centre house, or "almshouse hall," among the poor people, and whose practice (as a Manuscript Chronicle records) was to attend them "dailye to our Lady's Chirch, and to kneel with them in a long pew in the quire made for them and himself."

The ancient records, however, of the Drapers' Company show, that a building and endowment of almshouses by that company for poor people, existed long before the foundation attributed to Degory Watur, who seems to have been only the founder in so far as their re-erection took place, under his management, during his wardenship or stewardship of the company, of which he was a member.

The old almshouses extended along the whole of the west side of St. Mary's church-yard: and, being much

dilapidated and very incommodious dwellings, they were taken down in 1825. The present building, completed in the above year, from a design by Mr. J. Carline, now consists of eighteen comfortable habitations, of two chambers each; the front is in the old English style of architecture, having in the middle an embattled gateway, in the centre of which are the armorial bearings of the Company, with the motto "Unto God only be honour and glory." This re-edification, including the purchase of land, cost the Drapers' Company upwards of £3000, from whose funds each of the poor people receive annually ten pounds, with coal and occasional clothing.

ST. CHAD'S ALMSHOUSES

adjoin the cemetery of Old St. Chad's, and were founded in 1409 by Bennett Tipton, a public brewer, who lived in the College, and died in 1424. The allowance to the eleven poor occupants, "decayed old women," arises chiefly from a benefaction of £180 by David Ireland, alderman of the town, and Catharine his wife; which is now commuted to a rent charge of £8 on the Lythwood estate, the proprietor of which, and the Hon. H. W. Powys, nominate the alms-folk. Previously to the Reformation the poor people received one penny a-week from the Mercers' Company, since which time the annual payment of that body has been two shillings and two pence. They have also a yearly gift of coal from a legacy of the late Rev. R. Scott. The houses are miserable in appearance and a great obstruction to the thoroughfare.

HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

This spacious and well-built structure stands on an eminence rising from the Severn, which forms a beautiful object beneath. The site is highly salubrious, and the prospect delightfully variegated by many natural beauties. The majestic wrekin, with an extensive tract of country, is seen to the right; while the front presents a very general view of the town, skirted by genteel residences partly obscured by the foliage of The Quarry trees, which, with the towers of the Castle, the lofty steeples of the churches and their glittering vanes, unite in producing a scene diversified and impressive.

A fine terrace extends the whole length of the building, which was erected (in 1760) for the reception of orphans from the Foundling Hospital in London, at an expence of £12,000; but the funds of that institution not proving adequate to the plan of sending children to provincial hospitals, it was discontinued in 1774. It afterwards served as a place of confinement for Dutch prisoners taken in the American war; and in 1784 it was purchased under an act of parliament for incorporating the five parishes of the town and that of Meole Brace in the liberties, so far as concerned the maintenance of the poor, as a general House of Industry for their admission and employment.

Various circumstances, however, concurred to render the original scheme a failure, both as regards the economy to be effected, and the advantages eventually to result in favour of the united parishes, the select vestries of which now send but a small proportion of their poor, and those are generally infirm, who are under the management of a

board of directors. The varions sleeping wards, courts, &c. are clean and suitable, and the comforts of the inmates as to food, &c. unusually great. The children are instructed by a school-master and mistress, and the arrangements altogether may compete with any similar institution in the kingdom.

The dining hall is 115 feet in length, parallel with which is a chapel of the same size, in which service is performed once every Sunday.

The average yearly levy for the relief of the poor from the several parishes is sixteen pence in the pound, on the usual mode of rating.

THE PRISON CHARITIES

were commenced about the year 1800, for the distribution of rewards to promote the reformation and encourage the industry of criminals confined within the prison walls; to relieve the wants of unfortunate debtors; and to provide those who are dismissed from prison with a small sum for immediate maintenance, so as to prevent the great temptation of committing crime for that purpose. The annual subscription is limited to one guinea; and the institution has met with a laudable support, principally among the gentry of the county.

THE PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

of this town have at different times been largely endowed by the legacies of individuals who, in bidding the world adieu, were piously moved to leave portions of their substance to be expended in "bread to the poor," clothing and apprenticing poor children, annual gifts of money and garments to decayed housekeepers, and the general improvement of all, by directing commemorative sermons to be preached on particular anniversaries. In St. Chad's parish two hundred threepenny loaves are, on the average, distributed weekly throughout the year.

THE TOWN CHARITIES

were bequeathed for purposes in many respects similar to the foregoing, and were under the management of the old Corporation; but by the provisions of the Municipal Act the distribution of them is vested in trustees appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

Several other charitable societies exist in the town, whose object is to afford gifts of money, clothing, medical assistance, and religious instruction, to the necessitous sick poor, penitent females, &c.; as well as for the distribution of the scriptures and the public formularies of the established church, and for the propagation of christianity both at home and abroad, the detail of which would exceed the prescribed limits of this publication.

BOWDLER'S, OR THE BLUE SCHOOL,

Is situated in Beeches Lane, and is an oblong brick building, having in the centre a glazed cupola. It was founded in 1724, according to the will of Mr. Thomas Bowdler, alderman and draper, for the instruction, clothing, and apprenticing poor children of the parish of St. Julian.

Fifteen boys and 15 girls receive clothing and education, and 20 others education only, and attend service at St. Julian's on Sundays, to which church Mr. Bowdler was a great benefactor.

MILLINGTON'S SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL.

This excellent institution and monument of private munificence stands on an eminence in the suburb of Frankwell, which commands an extensive prospect of the town, its churches, public buildings, and more distant views.

The building consists of a handsome pedimented front, with a stone portico, and two wings attached to the centre, by a row of houses; the summit is crowned by a bell turret.

The chapel occupies the centre of the edifice, and contains a portrait of the founder. Adjoining are residences for the master and mistress of the school, and twelve houses for the resident hospitallers.

It was endowed by Mr. James Millington, a draper, of Shrewsbury, and consists (according to his will) of a schoolmaster and mistress with liberal salaries, and a chaplain, whose duty it is to read prayers every school morning. The scholars attend St. George's church on Sundays.

Twelve poor men or women, chosen from the single parishioners living in Frankwell, or from the part of Saint Chad's parish nearest to it, have each a comfortable dwelling consisting of two apartments, and £12. 10s. per annum, with two gowns, or suits of clothing, three tons of best coal yearly, and two sixpenny loaves of bread weekly. Gowns and clothing with £10 per annum and two sixpenny loaves weekly, are given to ten poor single housekeepers resident in Frankwell, the four senior of which occupy two chambers each above the school rooms, and are removed according to seniority into the hospital when a vacancy occurs.

The school rooms are in the rear of the building, in which twenty-five boys and as many girls receive their education, with clothing twice a-year. At the age of fourteen the boys are apprenticed, and £10 given as a premium with each; previous to which they are well clothed, and on producing a certificate of good behaviour during apprenticeship, £5 is presented as a gratuity. The girls are allowed £3 for clothing on leaving the school, and, on behaving well, at the expiration of three years of their service receive £3 more. The number of scholars, from the increased value of the property of the hospital, is about to be extended.

A Sermon is annually preached in St. Chad's Church, on the 12th of August, according to the will of the founder, to commemorate his birth-day.

Two exhibitions of £40 a-year each are founded for students of St. Mary Magdalene College, Cambridge, eligible to those who have been originally scholars in the school and born in Frankwell, and educated at the Free Schools.

The charity is governed by fourteen trustees, and the revenues, by proper management, are considerable.

ALLATT'S SCHOOL

is situated in Murivance, near St. Chad's Church, and was erected and endowed pursuant to the will of JOHN ALLATT, Gent. The building is an elegant free-stone structure, designed by Mr. Haycock in 1800, and cost £2000. It consists of two excellent houses for the master and mistress, which are connected with the schools by an arcade.

Forty boys and forty girls are educated and clothed, and at a proper age placed out as apprentices or servants.—Thirty coats and 140 stuff gowns are annually given to poor men and women from the funds of the same charity.

The management of the school and funds is under the direction of fourteen trustees.

THE PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOL

was begun in the year 1708, for the instruction and clothing of poor children, and is conducted on the National system, in spacious school rooms near the end of the English bridge. 250 children receive daily education here, 136 of whom are clothed, and on Sundays they attend the Abbey church. Annual funds, £252.

THE BRITISH SCHOOLS

were erected in 1812, opposite the County Gaol, for the plan of education suggested by the late Mr. Joseph Lancaster, and are supported by subscriptions and donations, with a

small weekly contribution from the scholars. The site being required for the Railway, another was purchased at the rear of the gaol, where a neat and convenient building has been erected from a design by Mr. Haycock, and which was opened in the spring of 1851. The cost, including the fittings and land, was £1150. Scholars, 220.

PAROCHIAL DAILY SCHOOLS.

ST. MARY'S AND ST. MICHAEL'S,

situated in Castle-foregate, were erected in 1832, and enlarged in 1840, by an upper apartment similar to the lower, 70 feet in length. The exterior is in the old English style of architecture, with a bell turret and clock in the centre, from a design by Mr. Carline. Two hundred boys and girls receive free instruction, and attend St. Michael's church on Sundays. The school from Marshall's Factory has been incorporated with this, and furnishes an addition of more than 100 scholars. Funds, £176 per annum.

ST. CHAD'S BOY'S AND GIRLS,

in Barker-street, the building was purchased and altered in 1839, at a cost of £1000. There are 240 scholars, and clothing is given annually at a cost of £55, which is chiefly defrayed by the pence and earnings of the children. Receipts, £200 per annum. In the same street, and in connection with this parish, an Infant school was formed in 1846, containing 180 juveniles. Receipts, £60 a year.

ST. JULIAN'S AND TRINITY

adjoin Trinity church, (between the two branches of the suburb of Coleham), and were erected by subscription, and opened June 28th, 1838. 120 Boys and Girls. An Infant school, established in 1833, is now incorporated with the above, and has 123 children. Receipts, £96 per annum.

ST. ALKMUND'S SCHOOL,

recently established in St. Mary's-street, 90 boys and girls.

INFANT SCHOOLS

are established in the suburbs of FRANKWELL and CASTLE FOREGATE, in addition to those before noticed, and are supported by subscriptions under the direction of intelligent ladies.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

There are several Sunday Schools connected with the established church and the different congregations of dissenters, some of which have existed nearly from the earliest formation of such institutions. The attendance of scholars is large and regular.

A WALK WITHIN THE WALLS.

"GO ROUND ABOUT HER, AND TELL THE TOWERS THEREOF.
MARK WELL HER BULWARKS, SET UP HER HOUSES."

HAVING noticed the principal Public Structures and Charitable Institutions, we turn next to those objects and ancient remains which do not admit of a regular classification.

In adapting the present work, therefore, to assist the Stranger, it is proposed to notice these and such other localities that may engage and deserve attention, in the course of A WALK WITHIN THE WALLS of our town, replete in subjects of antiquarian interest. During the survey of these matters we shall occasionally accommodate our thoughts and feelings to the days of yore, by adding such historical remarks as may serve the purpose of general as well as local information.

Our perambulation will commence from the spacious area in front of the County Hall, called the

MARKET SQUARE,

from the vegetable market being held there, and from whence may be seen several good specimens of the half-timbered houses of our forefathers, terminating with lofty gables.

That prominent in the vignette, was for many years previously to the present century, engaged as lodgings for the Judges of assize, and to which was added in 1847, a handsome basement window of Tudor arches, having a bold

crenelated cornice decorated with a series of carved heraldic badges, &c.

Proceeding up HIGH STREET, anciently called "Bakers' Row," from the number of that occupation which located there: on the left of the turning towards Grope Lane is an old timbered house, now a grocer's shop, the freehold formerly belonged to the Company of Mercers, who, on vacating their "Hall" in the Sextry, occupied it as

THE MERCERS' HALL.

Several of the Incorporated Companies originally possessed Halls for holding their meetings and the celebration of their feasts: the former have of late years been held at the Town Hall, and the latter at some of the Inns.

Further, on the right, is the Unitarian Meeting House, where the poet Coleridge preached in 1798; and fifty yards onward is the "Sextry" passage, or (as it is called in our provincialism) a "shut." This originally communicated with St. Chad's church-yard by a covered passage, and derived its name from the sacristy of the church, which is supposed to have stood within it. An old building, now the "Golden Cross," appears to have been a tavern as early as the year 1495, for in the archives of the corporation is the charge of 13s. 2d. "for wine spent on the king's gentlemen in the Sextrie." Its gloomy and confined situation proves how little our unpolished ancestors regarded accommodation or prospect when they were enjoying the pleasure of a jovial carouse.

The ancient stone building at the extremity of the street was in times past occupied as the

SHEARMEN'S HALL;

since which it has been used as a theatre, a methodist chapel, an assembly room, a temporary assize court, and a shop; and although now modernized as an auction mart, the present remains convey much of the character of the "city halls" of other days, associated with the good cheer, inspirating feasts, and the social merriment of com-brethren in the olden time.

The period of its erection is not known; but before the front was altered it presented (according to a drawing in the possession of the writer) a bold pointed window in the style of the fifteenth century, the apex of the gable being finished with an elegant finial. On the south-west side a very curious octagonal chimney, crenelated at the top, still remains.

The company of Shearmen were incorporated at least as

early as the reign of Edward IV, and the extracts preserved from their records afford many pleasing particulars of ancient customs and hospitality. The setting up of a "green tree," or May-pole, before the hall, "deck'd with garlands gay," was, according to an old MS. an usage practised by the apprentices of this company on their feast-day (June 6th) previous to the year 1588. The noisy revelry connected therewith seems to have excited the displeasure of the puritans, and the custom having been denounced by the "public preacher of the town,"* and forbidden by the bailiffs, the MS. further says, that "in 1591 certain young men for their disobedience were put into prison and indicted at the sessions, but on their submission they were acquit of their disobedience, and all further proceedings against them quashed, and it was determined that the usual tree might be put up as heretofore, so that it be done soberly and in good order, without contention." The attempt to obstruct this annual festivity caused an angry cavilling and interchange of written communications between the favourers of it and the bailiffs, so as to raise an opposition at the annual passing of the town accounts, for the expence incurred by the prosecution.

In the reign of Elizabeth, six hundred shearmen or cloth-workers were occupied (under the drapers) in dressing or raising the wool on one side of a coarse kind of cloth called Welsh webs, which were brought from Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire to a weekly market in this town. This manner of raising the wool having been found to weak the texture of the cloths, the avocation of the company became useless and was discontinued.

* An office instituted when preaching was not frequent, and granted to the Minister of St. Mary's in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The thoroughfare at the corner of St. Julian's church, leads to the Shambles of the Country Butchers; leaving the above edifice, which is shown as before the recent alteration (p. 97) we arrive at the WYLE COP,—cop is the Saxon, word for top, or head of any thing, and this part is considered as the first portion of the town inhabited by the

early British settlers, being situated near the royal dwelling of Brochwel (the site of Old St. Chad's church.) The Saxons, on their possession of the town, continued (without doubt) for a time to occupy the huts abandoned by the Britions. From hence the town extended itself northward in the direction of the churches. Proceeding down the Wyle Cop, three doors below the Lion Hotel, is the house which formed the temporary residence of King Henry VII. on his way to Bosworth, who, although he left the bailiffs to pay his soldiers, did not forget the favour conferred upon him by the burgesses. From this place is a distant view of the Wrekin, Lord Hill's Column, &c. At the foot of the Wyle, and turning to the right, we leave on the left the precinct of the GREY FRIARS, and pass along *Beeches Lane*, anciently *Bispestan* and *Bushpestanes*, in which is the Blue School and the Roman Catholic Chapel, and arrive at

THE TOWN WALLS,

erected in the time of Henry III, to fortify the place against the inroads of the Welsh, and towards the completion of which the burgesses were materially assisted by the royal bounty. These walls, although now deprived of their battlements, form an excellent footpath, and afford a delightful view of the river and adjacent country. At the extremity of the walls is a range of houses called the *Crescent;* a lofty gateway formerly conveyed the walls over the narrow lane leading to the river, and a little beyond stands the only remaining Tower of nearly twenty which formerly strengthened the ancient ramparts that enclosed our town.

It is square, and of three stories, embattled at the summit, and lighted by narrow square windows; from the style of building, it is probably as old as the reign of Henry IV.

Nearly adjoining the Tower is the Meeting-house of the Methodist New Connexion; and further on to the right is *Swan Hill*, formerly called *Murivance*, signifying before or within the walls. Passing Allatt's School, a chaste free-stone building, in the rear is the old Independent Meeting-house; the turning to the right leads to *St. John's Hill*, to the left is Quarry Place, occupied by private individuals. Proceeding onwards, St. Chad's church breaks upon the view, having a terrace on the south-west side, which commands a prospect of the beautiful QUARRY WALK. Leaving the principal entrance to this delightful promenade, where, on a pedestal, stands a fine colossal figure of Hercules, which was cast at Rome from the Farnese Hercules. A wide thoroughfare leads to the handsome residences of *Claremont Buildings*. Continuing our route to the end of this street, a narrow way opens to St. Austin's Friars and

the river, on the margin of which once stood an out-work, flanked by two round towers, erected by the corporation at a remote period for the protection of the opposite ford. In later times one of these towers was called the "Round House," and was demolished about fifty years ago. Turning to the right, we observe the remnant of the house of

THE AUSTIN FRIARS,

of which little appears excepting the outer portion of a red stone building, now used as a tan-house. The Friars Eremites of St. Augustine are supposed to have located in this town about the middle of the thirteenth century, and soon afterwards erected their house on a site which had been used during the reign of John as a place of sepulture, interment in consecrated ground having for a period been forbidden by the Pope,

The following beautiful initial letter, affixed to a charter

from Edward III, in 1345, assigns to the friars of this convent the out-work above alluded to, under certain conditions, with leave to have a postern gate for ingress and egress towards their house and church.

The king is depicted as sitting upon his throne, holding a globe in his left and a sceptre in his right hand, with two friars kneeling before him, and a third presenting a book or charter.

In the church of this Priory was a sanctuary, where a murderer could take refuge, and thereby escape his merited punishment; a privilege retained to the last,—and several knights and men of rank, slain in the battle of Shrewsbury, were buried within its walls.

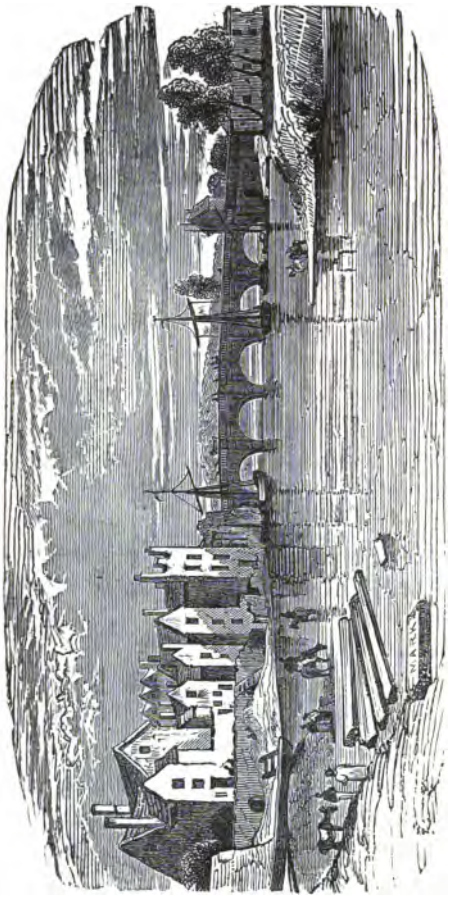
Previously to the dissolution, this house, like many others, fell suddenly into a state of bankruptcy, and the church was stripped of its furniture and vestments. On the site of the precinct which once pertained to this friary, and extended to the Quarry walk, several good houses have been erected.

On the opposite side of the river is the suburb of Frankwell, bordered with gardens; Millington's Hospital crowning the eminence.

THE WELSH BRIDGE

next attracts attention. It is a bold and substantial structure, completed in 1795, from a design by Messrs. Tilley and Carline, of this town, at a cost of £8000. It consists of five semi-circular arches, surmounted with a balustrade, and is 266 feet in length and 30 in breadth, and commands a good view of the Castle, Railway Station, Schools, &c.

It has been truly remarked, that while in cities of greater commercial importance no public works of great extent have been carried on without the exaction of tolls, the inhabitants of this town and county, to their honour, erected



THE WELSH BRIDGE.

two noble bridges, by which the trade of the neighbouring districts has been released from the burthen of a vexatious impost, at a total expence of £30,000, the whole of which was raised by voluntary contribution.

It is, however, matter of regret that too little attention has been shewn to encroachments on the river, by which much of the beauty of our bridges has been destroyed.

Adjoining the Welsh bridge are quays and warehouses, from whence the barges and trows receive and discharge their cargoes. This end of the town formerly displayed a scene of commercial importance, as being the place where the London, Birmingham, and Manchester waggons arrived, and from whence goods were forwarded to all parts of the kingdom, but owing to the communication opened by the railway and canal, Castle-foregate, most of the goods arrive there; this part, therefore, retains little more of its former bustle than is occasioned by the arrival of waggons for the dispatch of merchandize into North Wales, and what remains of the Severn trade.

The road on the left was made in 1850, as an ingress from the western portion of the town and county to the *New Cattle Market*, and leads nearly in a direct line to the Railway Station. To effect this improvement, it was requisite to take down the greater portion of the additional rampart called "Roushill Walls," erected in 1645, with stone from the ruins of Shrawardine Castle, and which enclosed the space from the precinct of the old Welsh bridge, to the flank wall of the castle, built by the third Norman Earl of Shrewsbury. The former wall which had a footpath on its thickness, has been extended towards the river and opens to

THE CATTLE MARKET,

an undertaking commenced by the Corporation, at the request of a large and influential meeting of the inhabitants, to remove the inconvenience, danger, and delay occasioned by horses, cattle, and other animals being exposed for sale in the streets and principal thoroughfares, and to afford those accommodations which the experience and energies of the present age suggest, as most conducive to the interests of those who may attend for the sale or purchase of cattle, &c.

For this purpose an act of Parliament was obtained and received the royal assent June 9th, 1848, authorizing the corporation to raise the sum of £15,000 by mortgage of the tolls.

The first stone of the octagonal building, intended for the negotiation of business, was laid by R. B. Blakemore, Esq. mayor, on the 17th September, 1849, and the market opened on the 19th November, 1850. The area comprises three acres and three quarters, and is surrounded by a substantial wall, having five entrance gates, and is laid out upon the most approved plan. In fact, the accommodations, have met with the general satisfaction of all persons attending the market, and for situation and convenience (especially proximity to a Railway station) few will be found to excel it in the kingdom. It is calculated to contain 700 horses, —4000 cattle,—5000 sheep, and 1000 pigs, with ample covered sheds for cattle, &c. as required. The trial ground for horses is 210 yards in length, and the charges are in every respect reasonable, 6d. a head for horses, 3d. colt or filly, cattle 3d. and 1s. 8d. a score for sheep or pigs.

The market was completed under the superintendence

and from the plan and design of Mr. T. Tisdale, Surveyor, to whom much credit is due for the ability and attention he has bestowed throughout the work, as well also, to the contractors for the buildings and the filling up of the site with 43,000 cube yards of soil.

From hence we return, and proceed to the street called MARDOL; about half-way up, on the right, is HILL'S LANE, where is situated

ROWLEY'S MANSION,

said to be the first brick structure erected in Shrewsbury. It appears to have been built in 1618 by William Rowley, draper, the first of his family who settled in this town, of which he was admitted a Burgess in 1594, and made an alderman in 1633, under the charter of Charles I. His grand-daughter and co-heiress married John Hill, Esq. who lived in great hospitality in this mansion, from whom the street received the appellation of *Hill's Lane*, instead of Knuckin-street. He died in 1731, and the house was soon afterwards inhabited by the talented Dr. Adams, incumbent of St. Chad's from 1731 to 1775.

The portal of this mansion is curious, and is accurately delineated by the wood cut. The great chamber, or withdrawing room, remains nearly in its original state, and is adorned with a basso relievo representation of the Creation, and other devices in stucco, &c. The oak wainscot from the other apartments has been removed. It is now used as a warehouse, and presents a striking picture of—"Some banquet Hall deserted."

Retracing our steps to Mardol, at the top of the street is a pile of ancient houses, decorated on the exterior with plaster and stone ornaments, in the fantastical fashion of the time in which they were built. The turning below these leads to *Claremont Street*, formerly Doglane. On the left is a curious half-timbered house, built in 1613, with a projecting porch. A little lower is the Baptist Meeting House, and on the right, Barker Street, and in front Claremont Hill. Keeping to the left, is an old mansion, called

THE BELL STONE,

anciently *Bente Stone*, from a large stone, of the species

styled Hornstone, which formerly stood outside the high wall and gate that originally surrounded the portion of the court not occupied by the buildings. It is for preservation now removed to the area in front of the house, but whether it was a British relic, or consecrated for religious purposes, or to denote some particular spot, or event, is uncertain. The building occupied three sides of a square, and before its alteration twenty years ago, was a good specimen of the smaller mansion of the time of Elizabeth. It was erected by Edward Owen, Esq. a bailiff of the town in 1582, and is now used as a Banking Establishment.

Within the precinct of this house was found a few years since in a remarkably perfect state, *the reverse die from which the crown piece of Charles I. was struck*, and as that monarch had a mint in this town in 1642, (page 24,) it is not improbable that the operations of THE SHREWSBURY MINT were effected at this place, and for which it was then well adapted.

Leaving the new Theatre and St. John's Hill on the right, we enter the street called SHOPLATCH, a name supposed to be derived from SHUTT PLACE, the residence of an ancient Shrewsbury family of the name of Shutt, the remains of which are still to be traced in the massive walls of a stone edifice long disused, however, for domestic purposes, and arrive at Mardol Head, formerly called THE STALLS. At the corner leading to High-street is

IRELAND'S MANSION,

once the town residence of the ancient family of Ireland, long seated at Albrighton. It is a spacious half-timbered building, four stories high, finished with gables, on the

beams of which are the following armorial bearings—Gules, three fleurs de lis, three, two, and one, Argent. The front consists of four ranges of bay windows, the original entrance having been in the centre under a Tudor arch. It is now divided into three dwellings.

BERNARD'S HALL.

Behind the house of Messrs. Burrey and White, at the foot of Pride Hill, is the remains of a large red stone building, originally believed to have been occupied by the family of *Bernard*, once the most opulent in the town. Hugh Bernard in 1288, was one of the Provosts, or chief magistrates of Shrewsbury. The mansion has been erroneously called "Bennette's Hall." The residence of the family of *Pride*, stood on the western side at the top of the street, which still retains their name.

Passing up Pride Hill, we reach the High Pavement, where, opposite the present Butter Market, once stood

THE HIGH CROSS,

which was no doubt similar in design to the elegant structures at Chichester and other places. It appears to have escaped the iconoclastic zeal of the puritans; for we learn that the old stone cross was not taken down until the year 1705. All general proclamations, as in former times, are still made upon this spot, while the reminiscences connected with it afford a melancholy picture of feudal severity. Here David, the last of the British Princes, underwent his cruel sentence, for defending by force of arms the liberties of his native country; and here the Earl of Worcester and other distinguished noblemen, after the battle of Shrewsbury, atoned for their rebellion by the loss of their heads.

Continuing our course, we enter CASTLE STREET, which is terminated in a picturesque manner by Laura's tower on the Castle Mount, and the umbrageous foliage with which it is surrounded. At the extremity of this spacious street stands

ST. NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL,

the only one existing of eight similar structures. Its present appearance proves it to be of Norman foundation, and built probably by Earl Roger de Montgomery for the accommodation of such of his retainers as resided in the *outer court* of the castle within which it stood. It was subsequently appropriated for the accommodation of the President and Council of the Marches of Wales. The west end displays a pointed window divided by a mullion, and in the interior is a massive semi-circular arch, which separated the nave from a chancel now destroyed. In lowering the floor in 1825, several human skulls and bones were discovered. The building is 50 feet long, by 19 wide, and is used at present as a coach-house and stable.

To the right of this edifice is a handsome timber gateway, erected in 1620, which leads to

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,

or LORD'S PLACE, originally occupied as the residence of the Court of the Marches of Wales; the Lords President and Council of which, were frequently received here "righte royallie" by the corporation and trading companies; the latter, no doubt, considering that the great number of persons which this Court attracted to the town in its judicial capacity, independent of the attendant pomp and feasting, was of no small benefit to them in their respective crafts and occupations, by multiplying the consumption of the necessaries of life, and imparting to Shrewsbury somewhat of the importance of a second capital. In the accounts of the chamberlain of the corporation is the following;—1618, "spent in the enterteyning the Lord President at his first coming to this town, £57. 9s. 0d."

In the early part of the rebellion, the corporation sent

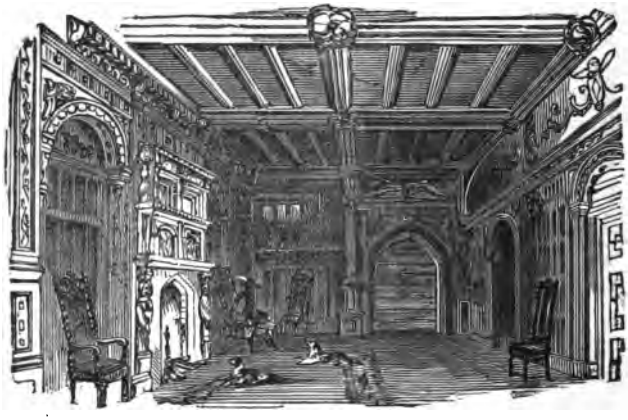
an invitation to Charles I, stating that he should "have free access into the town, and be entertained in the best manner these troublesome times afford." The unfortunate monarch accepted the loyal offer, and arrived here Sept. 20th, 1642, attended by his two sons (the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York) and his nephew Prince Rupert, and resided in the council house during his stay. King James II. also kept his court here in 1687.

In 1583 the corporation granted to Richard Barker, Esq. town-clerk of Shrewsbury, their interest in the council house and adjoining chapel, reserving the use of it for the annual residence of her Majesty's Council. From him it passed to Thomas Owen, Esq. also town-clerk, in whose family it remained until it was purchased by Richard Lyster, Esq. to whose descendant, Henry Lyster, of Rowton Castle, Esq. it now belongs.*

The building stands on an eminence overhanging the river in the vicinity of the castle, in what is supposed to have been the outer ballium of that fortress. Its erection took place about the time of Henry VII, and it was soon afterwards considerably enlarged, in all probability with some of the materials from the castle and the adjoining convent of Black Friars. On the extinction of the court of the Marches in 1689, these extensive buildings became ruinous, and their remains have been (during the present

* On the visit of Charles I. to this venerable mansion, Thomas Lyster (among other distinguished Shropshire loyalists) presented that Prince with a purse of £500. His grand-son, Richard Lyster, Esq. represented this town and county in parliament for a period of forty-five years, and was known among his countrymen by the familiar appellation of 'THE SENATOR.'

century) converted into three good houses, which command delightful prospects. The hall and great chamber above form a portion of the residence of W. J. Clement, Esq. Surgeon, who, with a commendable taste, preserves as far as possible the character of this part of the building; the entrance hall is delineated in the vignette.



Re-entering the street a pathway on the right leads to the Norman gateway of the castle. In the garden eastward, Capt. Benbow was shot, Oct. 15th, 1651, (by order of a court martial summoned by Cromwell at Chester), for his espousal of the cause of Charles II, he having been foremost at this spot, in scaling the walls and gaining the town for the Parliament in 1644-5.

Returning along Castle Street, on the right is the Raven Hotel, where Lieut. Geo. Farquhar (in 1704 or 1705) wrote his comedy of "The Recruiting Officer," the scene of which is laid in Shrewsbury; and while it sufficiently demonstrates

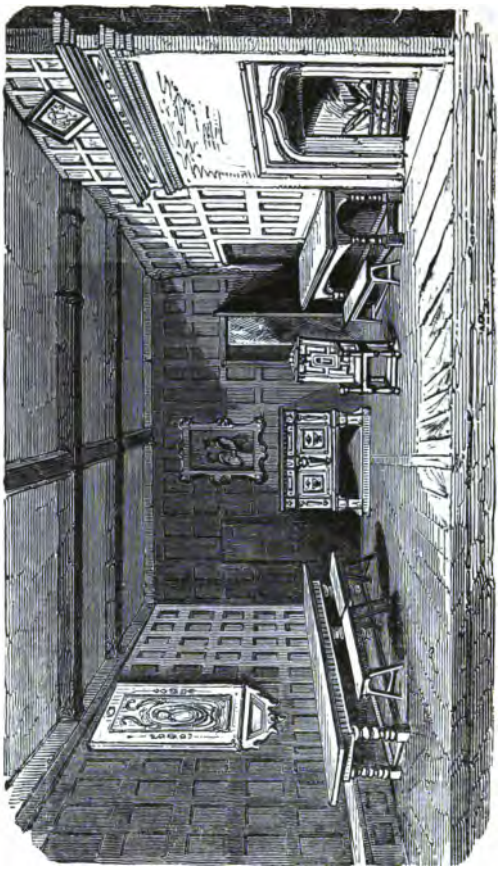
he was well acquainted with that gay scene of life which forms the subject of his play, it is equally certain he had "living originals in his eye." The epistle dedicatory is "To all friends round the Wrekin," and states he was a perfect stranger to every thing in Salop but its character of loyalty, the number of its inhabitants, and their generous and hospitable reception of strangers,—an eulogium, it is hoped, that may be retained by Salopians in every generation.

Taking the direction of the street opposite the Raven, a pleasing view of ancient and modern architecture presents itself in St. Mary's church and the Infirmary. On the south-west side of the church-yard is

THE DRAPER'S HALL,

a half-timbered gabled building, erected about the time of Elizabeth. The interior is sufficiently described by the engraving. The apartment is 28 feet by 20, but was originally of larger dimensions. It is wainscotted with fine old oak, and the floor was once rich in emblazoned tiles. At the north end is the upper place, or "dais," where the members "feasted full and high;" and on the opposite side stands a fine old chest, with richly carved ornaments; above which is a painting said to represent the first steward of the company, Degory Watur, and his wife; this originally stood on the front of the hall house occupied by Degory in the almshouses.

The east side is decorated with a portrait of Edward IV, denoting within a border, his titles and decease in 1483, beneath are some quaint lines commemorative of his patronage.



Returning from this hall, to the left is DOGPOLE (from Doke or Duck, to decline, and Poll, the head or summit); the street having an abrupt descent towards the river, to which there was formerly a communication.

To the right is St. Mary's Street and the Almshouses. This street was very narrow until the year 1824, when several old buildings were taken down. Pursuing our course along CHURCH STREET, we pass the site and remnant of a half-timbered house, distinguished by gables, which formed a portion of

JONES'S MANSION,

in which the Duke of York resided when he accompanied his royal father to this town in 1642. It was also the abode of "Prince Rupert, when he joined his uncle after the brilliant action of Worcester." This house was built by Thos. Jones, Esq. whose burial is noticed in the account of the adjoining church of St. Alkmund. Leaving that sacred edifice to the left, and turning a few yards to the right, we arrive at the DOUBLE BUTCHER Row, a street chiefly occupied by butcher's shambles, and where is an

ANCIENT TIMBER HOUSE,

considered to be one of the oldest and largest of this kind of buildings of which our town displays so many specimens.

The projecting stories are sustained by elegant brackets, and the angle uprights enriched with small pointed arches, carved with trefoil and other decorations. Along the front basement is a cloister of wooden arches obtusely pointed.—This building, 60 feet in length, is now divided into smaller habitations. History is silent as to the time, or by whom this edifice was erected, nor have we any decided information of its primary occupancy.

From the appearance of the cloister, it has been conjectured that it was a religious house, inhabited by the

chauntry priests of the fraternity of the Holy Cross in St. Alkmund's church. But from its extent it is more likely to have been the town mansion of the Abbot of Lilleshull, who had a residence in this part of the parish, and to which monastery the patronage of the church belonged.

Continuing our route to the left of this house, we pass steps leading to the church-yard, and the foundations of a stone building (which once pertained to an *Oriel* and the

ancient college of St. Alkmund), into Fish-street, occupied by shambles, and on market days by the country butchers. Crossing the top of High-street, we enter Milk-street, which leads to Old St. Chad's (page 45), and the street called BELMONT, in which is situated

THE JUDGES' HOUSE,

purchased by the County of Salop in 1821, under an act for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of his Majesty's judges of assize. At the south-west end of the opposite thoroughfare across the church-yard is the remains of a red stone wall which formed part of

THE COLLEGE OF ST. CHAD,

originally a large ancient building inclosing a quadrangular court, separated from the street by a lofty wall and gateway. In 1549 Edward VI. granted the college to Hugh Edwards, Esq. the individual who (in 1551) exerted himself in obtaining the foundation of our grammar school. It continued in his family until 1752, when Lord and Lady Malpas disposed of the buildings, which were soon afterwards converted into three excellent houses, but so effectually modernized with brick as to display none of the appearance of a "college," although the name is still retained. To the left of the entrance is the Saving's Bank; westward is College Hill. Half-way down this street is the back elevation of the Music Hall, on the site of which and adjoining stood

VAUGHAN'S PLACE,

which, before its alteration and brick casing in 1795, was considered a curious specimen of the unembattled town mansion, erected (it is conjectured) about the middle of the

fourteenth century by Sir Hamo Vaughan, whose daughter Eleanor married Reginald de Mutton. By this alliance the house came into the possession of the Myttons of Halston, several of whom represented this town in parliament; but little of its original state now appears, except a lofty gable of red stone on the western side, which is seen on passing to Swan Hill. From hence, in the street leading to the Corn-market, is the TALBOT HOTEL, where the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria alighted on their visit to this town in 1832, when the mayor and corporation waited upon them with a congratulatory address.

We now arrive at the POST OFFICE and PUBLIC ROOMS.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.

SHROPSHIRE AND NORTH WALES NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

On the 26th of June, 1835, it was resolved to establish a Natural History Society for the county of Salop and North Wales, and to found a central museum and Scientific library.

To secure the perpetuity of the institution, and to guard against the dispersion of the museum at any future period, the property of the society is vested in the lords lieutenant of the county of Salop, and of the several counties of North Wales, as trustees.

The museum is principally designed to illustrate the Natural History of the district, in its various branches of geology, mineralogy, zoology, and botany, by the gradual

formation of complete and systematic arrangements of its productions, in each of these departments. It is also open to other objects of scientific interest, and in particular is a suitable repository for such remains of antiquity as are found within the district, or illustrate its general history. But, in addition to these more local objects, the museum will, it is anticipated, be enriched with many specimens from distant places.

The library consists of Books illustrative of Natural History and Antiquities, and, as well as the museum, is open to donations from the members and friends of the institution. The society's affairs are under the direction of a council, consisting of a president and other officers, elected annually. A building in Dogpole is the repository for the collections of the Museum, &c.

THE SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY

is on St. John's Hill, and contains a valuable collection of books in the various departments of literature and science. Its affairs are confided to a committee. Proprietary members pay two guineas admission, and an annual subscription of one guinea and a half; and strangers, on the introduction of a subscriber, have the privilege of consulting any of the books during library hours.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY

was revived in 1834. It is under the management of a secretary and committee, and supported by a large and respectable number of subscribers. Three excellent concerts are given during the season, and *Artistes* of the highest celebrity engaged.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION

was commenced in 1825 "to afford Tradesmen, Mechanics,

Artizans, and others, opportunities of acquiring at their leisure hours, the principles of Science and the Arts, &c," for which purpose classes of instruction have been formed. It is conducted by a president and committee, an annual subscription of ten shillings constitutes a member, but youths are admitted for five shillings as students, on the recommendation of a subscriber.

The society occupy the chambers over the Market House, where there is a Library and Reading Room. Professioual and other lectures are occasionally given to the members. The funds average about £100 annually.

TRINITY CHURCH READING ASSOCIATION

is held in the suburb of Coleham; its object is the instruction and improvement of the youth of the locality, through the medium of lectures and the use of a reading room and library.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE

is in Windsor Place. The reading room is open to the members and associates every evening (Sunday excepted), and is supplied with daily London and other papers, Magazines, &c. The library consists of works of interest both in literature and science. Classes in Latin, French, Mathematics, &c. are in progress, and lectures on various subjects are given. The annual subscription for members is 12s. 6d. and 6s. for associates.

NEWSPAPERS.

Three weekly newspapers are published here: viz.—*Wednesday*, EDDOWES'S JOURNAL, Corn-market. *Friday*, THE SHREWSBURY CHRONICLE, St. John's-hill. *Saturday*, THE SHROPSHIRE CONSERVATIVE, Pride-hill.

WALK WITHOUT THE WALLS.

"Scenes must be beautiful which daily view'd
Please daily."

SHREWSBURY QUARRY.

On the south-western side of the town is one of the most celebrated promenades in the kingdom. It is formed in a tract of verdant meadow ground of twenty-three acres, gradually sloping to the river Severn, along the banks of which there is a graceful avenue of lime trees, extending 540 yards in length, whose lofty arching branches entwine themselves so as to resemble the long aisle of some religious fane.

Three other lengthy walks, planted in a similar manner, serve as approaches from the town to this the principal promenade, which being enlivened with many pleasing views, renders it in point of situation and beauty unrivalled.

To the stranger, the Quarry is a never failing theme of admiration,—and to the inhabitant, a boast of self-gratulation as a near and healthful resort from town residence; in this respect it is invaluable. Here the pedestrian may inhale the refreshing breeze wafted from the flowing river,—the invalid find a cool and sequestered retreat,—while the mind alive to the charms of nature may enjoy its philosophic contemplations in the ever-changing beauties of the seasons.

A cluster of horse-chesnut and other trees growing in a

dingle, and which in autumn present a beautifully variegated mass of foliage, diversify what otherwise might be considered a formal arrangement of these walks, which derive their name from a red sandstone formerly procured from this dingle, and were planted during the mayoralty of Henry Jenks, Esq. in 1719, agreeably to the following order of the corporation, in whom the freehold and the tithe is vested:—Jany. 15th, "Agreed that there be a handsome walk made in the Quarry for persons to walk in, and that trees be planted in the same, in such manner as Mr. Mayor shall think most ornamental.

On the opposite side of the meandering river is a verdant eminence fringed with luxuriant plantations.

At the north-western end of the Quarry, near Claremont, is a sloping bank, which originally formed an amphitheatre, called the "Dry Dingle," where religious mysteries (or miracle plays) were celebrated. Prince Arthur, in 1494, attended one of these exhibitions, which were performed on this spot, even after the Reformation, by the head school-master, Mr. Ashton, and his pupils.

Crossing the ferry, at the extremity of the walk leading from the remains of this amphitheatre, and pursuing the footpath in the field to the left of the Boat-house, we reach an eminence from whence a prospect opens to the view combining water, hill, plain, and wood in charming variety. Continuing from hence to the right of the House of Industry, we arrive at

KINGSLAND,

or, as written in an early Norman grant, *Chingsland*. This is an extensive piece of land, belonging to the ancient bur-

gesses of Shrewsbury, thirty of whom in rotation annually receive four shillings and sixpence from its produce, in lieu of a "turn for their kine." On this place the festival of Shrewsbury Show (described page 157) is held, and it commands a prospect which stretches to a considerable distance, over a beautiful and well-cultivated country, diversified with mountains possessing form and interest.

Returning to the front of the House of Industry, and taking the path from the bank on which that building stands, we cross the Severn by means of the ferry at the Can Office, and enter the pasture called "*Stury's Close*," where the Earl of Pembroke, Lord President of the Marches, "mustered all the country, both of horsemen and footmen," in 1588 (a year memorable for the defeat of the Invincible Armada), and soon reach

THE GREY OR FRANCISCAN FRIARY.

The remnant illustrated by the wood cut comprises probably the refectory, which was partly re-edified as late as the reign of Henry VIII, and is now converted into dwellings.

This religious society, sometimes called Friars Minors, settled in this town early in the thirteenth century. Hawis, wife to Charleton Lord of Powis (born in 1291), and heir of the ancient Princes of Powis Gwenwynwyn, was a great benefactress to this friary, if not its second foundress, and probably built the church, in which the stained glass now in the eastern window of St. Mary's chancel, is supposed to have been originally placed. It was also the burial place of the Lords of Powis.

From the quantity of bones which have been found within the precinct of this convent, it would seem that no unprofitable use was made of the privilege granted to this order by the Pope, of "*liberam sepulturam.*" This, and their reputed sanctity, as well as the popular belief that whoever was buried in their cemetery, or in the habit of a grey friar, would be secure from the attacks of evil spirits

and find an easy entrance into heaven, were circumstances doubtless of such importance, as to induce many persons to desire sepulture among such hallowed men.

On the opposite side of the river is the foundry and the suburb of Coleham, to which there is a ferry.

Passing under the arch of the English Bridge, to the left are some modern dwellings, on the site of a curious half-timbered mansion, erected in the reign of Elizabeth, by William Jones, an alderman and opulent draper of the town, and father of Thomas Jones, the first mayor of Shrewsbury. A view and description of this curious building, communicated by the author of these pages, will be found in vol. 99, part ii. of the Gentlemans Magazine.

A few yards beyond stood

THE DOMINICAN FRIARY,

which comprehended nearly the whole space now occupied by gardens between the bridge and the water gate.*

This order of mendicants took their name from their founder, and were sometimes called "Preachers" from their office, and "Black Friars" from their dress. They located here in 1222, the year after their arrival in England, when Henry III. granted them stone which lay in the Severn, under the ballium of the castle, for the building of their church.—Leland states that they took for their founder the

* The sloping bank above this friary was given to and occupied by the Monks of Shrewsbury Abbey, as a VINEYARD, as early as the reign of Henry III. Its situation on the northern side of the river, inclining southward and open to the east, renders it well adapted to the purpose.

Lady Genevile, wife of Peter de Geneva, or Genevile, but this is uncertain.

The convent, like those of the Austin and Franciscan friars, was placed on the margin of the river, outside the walls and adjacent to the bridges.

From the rich architectural remains, &c. which have occasionally been dug up here, the church must have been a spacious and elegant building; but, in common with the other convents, it shared the fate of the dissolution of monasteries, and was sold by Henry VIII. in 1543. The hand of man, combined with the operations of time, had, previously to 1823, left but few vestiges either of the convent where Richard and George Plantagenet, two sons of Edward IV. were born, or the more recent fortifications erected on this interesting spot,—where some military transactions were determined in periods of our domestic history.

The bank on which this friary stood was levelled in the above-mentioned year, when the foundations of several walls were cleared to a considerable extent, and numerous capitals, pieces of mullions, with remains of stained glass, enamelled tiles, &c. were discovered by the workmen employed in the construction of a new building and wharf. Several stone graves were also brought to view, the masonry of which was well finished, and formed so as nearly to fit the corpse. After clearing the soil from these tombs, skeletons were found encased in red sand, but without the least trace of any thing in which the body might have been enveloped. The only remains of this once noble pile are the materials used in the construction of a stable and the wall surrounding the gardens. Adjoining is

THE WATER-LANE GATE,

Through which the parliamentary army entered, Feb. 22nd, 1644-5, and captured the town. The means by which this was accomplished showed much generalship and secrecy on the part of the Parliamentarians. An attempt had been made on the night of the 14th, but the soldiers being crossed in their march privately, retreated. It appears a detach-

ment of soldiers belonging to that party left Wem, under the command of Lieut. Col. Reinking, on the evening of the 21st, and marched under the shadow of night to the extremity of the Castleforegate, where the troopers halted at four o'clock in the morning, in order that the foot soldiers in charge of Lord Colvill might effect an entrance by stratagem, or by a false alarm, and if this succeeded, they were to "take the double castle gates, with the school house and steeple oppositely facing and commanding the castle within the town." The infantry turned off on the left to the river, being led by a puritanical minister of the town, named Huson, a kinsman of the celebrated John Huson, who from a cobbler rose to be a colonel and a member of the Barebones parliament.

The dismounted troopers were under the command of Benbow, who, being a native of Shrewsbury, was aware of the part most easily attacked. From the end of Castleforegate they advanced through the fields to the castle ditch (now the railway platform), which was defended on the town side by strong palisading and a breastwork of earth. A boat on the river contained several carpenters and other persons, who commenced sawing down the paling near the river to effect a passage for the soldiers. This was soon accomplished, and by assisting one another over the ditch the breastwork was gained. While this was progressing, the two sentinels on the outworks of the castle heard the noise, and cried out "who is there?"—The answer was, "you shall see presently;"—in the mean time the musketeers lighted their matches, and the guards having fired, an alarm was given both in the town and castle. Having succeeded thus far, they seem to have divided themselves into two divisions; the one party, headed by Benbow, scaled

the wall on the eminence between the Watch Tower and the Council House, by means of light ladders. The main body, consisting of 350 men, entered by the gate shewn in the engraving, to which a tower and outwork was formerly attached. This, and a similar fort about the middle of the lane where the town wall crossed, yielded without resistance by the connivance of careless and treacherous sentinels, who are supposed to have been intoxicated and privy to the design. The party who had scaled the wall hastened to procure an entrance at the north or castle gate, which was soon done, and having let down the draw-bridge, the horse, with Colonels Mytton and Bowyer at their head, made the best of their way to the main court of guard, held in the Market-place, where they found their comrades engaged with the royalists, the latter having twice beaten them back. The loss on both sides was inconsiderable, amounting to only seven men and one captain. The castle surrendered about noon, when the garrison was immediately marched off to Ludlow, with the exception of thirteen poor Irishmen, who, being left to the tender mercies of the parliamentary leaders, were hanged the same day without trial.

Continuing the walk by the side of the river, a prominent object is the tower on the castle mount, from which groups of trees decline to

THE RAILWAY VIADUCT,

a massive erection of Broseley brick, with stone dressings and piers. It comprises seven eliptical arches, each 45 feet span, with a rise of 18 feet, and is finished by a cornice and plain parapet. The height from the river to the line of rails being 36 feet. The first stone was laid under the eastern pier of the thoroughfare arch, 30th Aug. 1847, and the

first sod of the line of railway eastward was turned in a field near the White Hall, April 5th, in the same year, and the line was opened as far as Wolverhampton, Nov. 12th, 1849. The Hereford line was begun in Coleham in Feby. 1851. The pathway brings us to the island where a pageant took place in honour of Sir Henry Sidney, (noticed page 23.) A little beyond, on the opposite side of the river, is the ferry for conveying horses across, by which barges are towed up the stream.* The meadows into which we have passed comprised a portion of the ancient Derfald, or enclosure for the keeping of deer,—in other words a park, which may not be inaptly called

SHREWSBURY PARK,

for it belonged to our first Norman earl, and in all probability to some of the Saxon monarchs. The situation of the ground, before it was stripped of its timber, possessed every advantage of pasture, water, and diversified surface.—According to the record of Domesday, it was the custom, when the king resided here, for twelve of the better sort of citizens to keep watch over him; and when he went out hunting, those having horses protected him. This practice probably arose in consequence of the murder of Alfhelm (an earl of the blood royal) in 1016, who, having been invited here and hospitably entertained by Ædric Streona (son-in-law to King Etheldred), was barbarously assassinated by a butcher while hunting, whom the perfidious Ædric had engaged for that purpose.

* This ferry leads to a walk which commands a bold view of the town, and communicates with the Abbey-foregate by a level crossing of the railway.

The boundaries of these pleasant fields bring us to the Shrewsbury Canal, which for some distance beyond passes above the banks of the river; while from the canal towing-path numerous pleasing views may be obtained, affording an agreeable half-hour's walk to the picturesque village of Uffington.

Retracing our steps along the green banks of the Severn, we arrive at a gentle ascent which leads to the promenade surrounding the prison. From hence the long ridge of Haughmond Hill,—the noble Wrekin,—the stately White Hall,—the patriotic Column in honour of Lord Hill,—the venerable Abbey Church, standing like a patriarch among its more modern compeers,—the Stretton Hills in the distance, and close at hand the frowning walls of the Castle,—the Railway Viaduct, and the passing and repassing of trains along the embankment, combine to attract the eye and the mind.

On a line with the Prison is HOWARD STREET. Passing over a timber bridge crossing within the pediments of the roof covering the railway platform, and formed of two arches on the bow and string principle, each 85 feet span, to the DANA WALK, "where the huge castle holds its state." Westward is Berwick House, embosomed in sylvan beauty, and beyond in the horizon, a range of Cambrian mountains. Among these are those gigantic landmarks between England and Wales,—the Breidden and Moelygolfa hills. The former rises to the height of 1000 feet, and has on the summit a pillar erected to commemorate the great victory obtained by Admiral Rodney over the French fleet in the West Indies, 1782.

When this walk was formed, in 1790, an archway was

opened through that portion of the town wall which extended in a line with the outer Castle Gate across the isthmus down to the banks of the river, having a corresponding barrier on the other side of the castle. It was erected by Robert de Belesme, third Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, under the idea that his father's fortifications were not of sufficient strength to withstand a siege from the forces of Henry I. which in 1102 marched against him.

An additional rampart called Roushill, enclosing the space between the wall of Earl Robert and the Welsh bridge, was added during the Commonwealth.

Proceeding down the Dana steps, at right angles with the Grammar School Chapel, stood the *inner* Castle, or Burgess Gate, the outer gate stood in a line with the old walls leading to the Cattle Market, and was defended with towers, portcullis, and foss. Just below is

THE GENERAL RAILWAY STATION,

A handsome structure of free-stone, in the Tudor gothic style; the main front is 150 feet in length, and of two stories in height. In the centre is a square tower, 60 feet high, projecting somewhat beyond the line of the building, and having at each angle a turret-shaped buttress, which extends to the battlements, from which spring octagonal pinnacles. Above the entrance in the tower, is an oriel window, resting on a carved bracket, and above this the clock dial. On each side of the tower are wings, divided by buttresses and pinnacles corresponding with the above. Between the upper and lower windows is an elegant string-course, and over the cornice, an embrasured parapet, decorated with sunk panelled tracery. The windows are square, and surmounted with a label, resting on grotesque heads.

The upper story forms a board room for the Directors, and offices for the clerks, &c. The basement is set apart for booking offices, waiting rooms for ladies and gentlemen, first and second class refreshment rooms, parcel depots, and other purposes connected with the different lines of railway. Beneath these are apartments for culinary and domestic uses.

The building was designed by Mr. T. Penson, junr. of Chester, and evinces much taste and judgment in the disposition of the several parts. The arrival and departure platform for a length of 450 feet is covered by a wrought-iron roof and sky-light, 70 feet span. On either side, the platform (16 feet in width), is flagged, that next the station is 600 feet in length. It is in all respects most convenient, and commands a fine open prospect eastward.

The works at this station from the bridge over Cross-street, Castleforegate, to the junction with the Shrewsbury and Birmingham embankment at the south-east end of the

Viaduct over the Severn, at which point the Hereford line joins, have been executed at the joint expense of the four railway companies, whose lines unite here. The cost of the station, viaduct, and cross bridges was about £40,000, the total amount, including the purchase of land and buildings, being nearly £100,000.

RECREATIVE.

THE THEATRE ROYAL.

The old building used for the purpose of dramatic performance in this town, formed part of an ancient mansion called "Charlton Hall," long the residence of the Shropshire family of Charlton, who where Lords of Powis. Having long been ruinous, it was purchased by Mr. Bennett, the manager, and taken down in 1833. The erection of the present theatre on its site has been an important improvement to the thoroughfare leading to St. John's Hill and the Quarry, as well as an ornament to the town. It forms a centre and two wings; the lower part consists of a rusticated base, upwards of 100 feet in length, fitted up as shops, with a house for the manager. Above is a continued string-course, from which rises two pilasters in each wing, supporting a freize and cornice. The windows are finished with architraves, and the front of the building displays three niches, containing statues of SHAKSPEARE and of the COMIC and TRAGIC MUSE.

The interior of the theatre is conveniently arranged: in the centre is a dome, and the ceiling richly decorated with appropriate devices. The building is creditable to the taste of Mr. Bennett, whose spirited undertaking is appreciated by the lovers of the drama. The new structure was opened Sept. 8th, 1834, under the patronage of the Mayor.

THE CIRCUS

is a large brick building near the Welsh bridge, in which equestrian performances occasionally take place. It is used on fair days as a butter and cheese market. Built 1822.

THE HORSE RACES

are annually held in the month of May, and continue for two days. They are generally attended by the rank of the county, and attract a considerable influx of visitors to the town. The Queen contributes a plate of one hundred guineas.

THE ASSEMBLY ROOM

was erected in 1777, at the back of the Lion Hotel, and is a commodious and tastefully decorated apartment, where most of the balls are held.

THE SHREWSBURY HUNT

takes place about the middle of November, and brings to the town a respectable number of the nobility and gentry of this and the adjoining counties, who pass a week with a president annually chosen from the members, while a fashionable ball gives eclat to the meeting.

ANGLING.

The Severn has long been celebrated for the excellency of its fish—salmon, pike, grayling, trout, perch, and many others. The votaries of the "Gentle Craft," if not always gratified with excellent sport, may find pleasure in the contemplation of the scenery around. An attempt has been made during the past few years, to protect the fishing of the river near the town, from being poached with illegal nets.

ACQUATIC EXCURSIONS.

Pleasant exercise and amusement is afforded on the Severn during the summer months. Several parties possess boats, and an emulation of skill is frequently excited among the more experienced rowers. An annual gala is generally given by the young gentlemen of Shrewsbury School in the month of June.

Boats may be hired for the day at a moderate charge, and pic-nic parties take an excursion up the river to the picturesque and woody banks at Shelton, the shady groves near Berwick and the Isle, or downwards to the rural villages of Uffington, Atcham, &c.

THE SEVERN ranks next in importance to the Thames, but in the diversified features of hill and valley—wood and pasture, it may claim a decided superiority. This beautiful stream, famed in British story, and noticed by classic historians, the theme of poets, and the admiration of tourists, has been regarded from olden time as the "Queen of Rivers." It rises in Plinlimmon mountain, Montgomeryshire, and passing through that county, receives in its meanderings numberless tributary streams, and presenting to fair Salopia the richest variety of picturesque scenery.

Below the castle mount the railway crosses it by a viaduct, noticed page 233, and shewn in the vignette. After winding sixty or seventy miles through the centre of Shropshire, passing Worcester, &c. it forms "a mighty river, potent large," and empties itself into the Bristol channel fifty miles below Gloucester.

THE SUBURBS OF SHREWSBURY

comprise five separate districts, viz. COTON HILL, CASTLE FOREGATE, FRANKWELL, ABBEY FOREGATE, and COLEHAM.

In noticing these, it is purposed to commence where our walk terminated without the walls, viz. the RAILWAY STATION, Castle Gates, from whence the Castle Foregate and Coton Hill diverge. Taking the latter thoroughfare, to the left we enter Chester Street, where a road leads to the CATTLE MARKET, communicating with Mardol. A few yards further are

THE WATER WORKS,

which supply the inhabitants with water for domestic purposes, being raised from the river by means of a steam engine, capable of throwing up 27,000 gallons in the hour. The Company was established under an act of parliament in 1830.* Nearly opposite are

THE ROYAL BATHS,

affording conveniences equal to any which are to be found in the first-rate establishments of this kind; while the moderate terms and strict attention to cleanliness and com-

* The town is supplied with most excellent water for drinking from a spring called Broadwell, which rises beyond Kingsland, and is conveyed by pipes under the river to a reservoir in one of the lodges at the principal entrance to the Quarry Walk, being conducted from thence to conduits placed in different parts of the town for the convenience of the inhabitants. This was undertaken by the corporation in 1552, and completed in 1556, the pipes were originally of wood, but proving bad, lead was substituted in 1570. These were taken up in 1842.

fort are recommendations for patronage and support. Hot air, vapour, shower, warm, salt, medicated, and fresh water baths are in constant readiness, and the pleasure bath is of sufficient dimensions to enable persons to learn the art of swimming.

The building is of a chaste design, with a portico, supported by two attached Ionic columns.

From the road, winding on the banks of the river, an imposing view of the town is obtained, with a portion of the walls by which it was formerly encompassed. A bold clump of sycamore trees on the right denotes

BENBOW HOUSE,

where the gallant Admiral Benbow was born in 1650, whose distinguished deeds in arms have rendered him an honour to our town and country. This brave soldier not only stood against the enemy in the memorable action off Carthagena, in August, 1702, until every hold was gone, but had to encounter the unparalleled treachery of those under his command. The operation of amputating his leg, which was shattered by a chain-shot in the above engagement, added to mental anxiety, occasioned by the base conduct of his captains, brought on a fever which terminated his career of glory November 4th, in the same year. His remains received the rites of sepulture in Kingston church, Jamaica.

We now arrive at COTON HILL, where stood the suburban mansion of the Myttons of Halston, in which that family resided after vacating their town house of Vaughan's Place.* North-west of the turnpike was ST. CATHERINE'S CHAPEL, one of those wayside edifices found at the entrances of towns, and which existed abundantly before the Reformation. It stood in a pasture still called the Chapel Yard, on the margin of which is a cutting, forming the line of

* To the left of the turnpike is the Baschurch road, on which, at the distance of one mile, are the beautiful Gates leading to Berwick House; a short distance beyond is the neat structure of Berwick Chapel, re-built at the close of the 17th century.—The town may be regained by a walk through fields, rich in sylvan beauty.

railway to Chester; this line was opened with civic honours Oct. 12th, 1848. From the bridge which crosses the Ellesmere road at this spot, there is a good view of the castle and other objects of interest, the station and the buildings for the repair, &c. of engines, and the unloading of merchandize, coal, &c.

Coton appears at a remote period to have been connected with the Suburb of Frankwell by a bank, which caused the river to spread over the meadows called the "Purditches," forcing its waters from thence under Hencot and Cross Hill in a channel still strongly marked by its rising banks, and discernible at all times, especially during floods, until the stream found its way into the present channel near the Royal Baths. This is evident at the foot of Cross Hill, one mile on the Ellesmere road, to the right of which a toll bar communicates with a pleasant lane, from the brow of which the old course of the Severn may be easily defined, and the town unfolds itself with peculiar beauty, backed by a frontier of Salopian and Cambrian mountains, increasing in variety and effect throughout a rural walk, which leads to Castle-foregate.

THE CASTLE FOREGATE.

In returning from Coton Hill a brick arch on the skew principle conducts to Castle-foregate, which is more than a mile in length to Ditherington the boundary of the borough. This suburb has become a place of considerable business from the communication which has been opened with distant parts, by means of the different lines of railway which meet here.

A bridge of cast-iron, 64 feet span, to carry four lines of

rails, has been placed across the street, on the side of which is Howard Street cheese market, and the entrances to the Shrewsbury and Birmingham and Shropshire Union carriage sheds, &c. Further on is the Shrewsbury Canal and Coal Wharf, originally formed in 1797, for the conveyance of coal from Hadley, Ketley, &c. in the eastern part of Shropshire. It now belongs to the Shropshire Union and Canal Company, who have warehouses on its banks, these are connected with the station by lines of rails which pass under the top of Howard Street. Onward to the left is the spacious depot for coal and lime brought from Denbighshire, and the Goods Station of the Shrewsbury and Chester, and the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railway, with the engine sheds, &c. belonging to the Chester line.

The Gas Works, St. Michael's Church, and Marshall's Factory, are still further; near the latter, the road passes over the canal to the Old Heath, Battlefield, &c.

THE SUBURB OF FRANKWELL,

anciently written *Frankville*, lies on the west side of the Welsh bridge, and is a township within the parish of St. Chad. In former times it suffered much from the ravages of the Welsh, being in the line of road to the principality.

The inquisitive eye of the antiquary will discover in this suburb many curious specimens of the half-timbered dwellings of our ancestors, one in particular, now the "String of Horses," appears, from initials, &c. over the chimney piece, to have been erected at least as early as 1576. To the left of this building is "New Street," leading to Millington's Hospital, Kingsland, &c. Roads also branch off to the village of Hanwood, and the mining districts of Pontesbury and Westbury.

Passing onward to the right is St. George's church (page 89), a short distance from which is the "Mount," so called from a strong outwork erected during the civil wars, under the direction of Lord Capel, and in which he planted several pieces of cannon to protect the town. The garrison of this fort vigorously resisted the attacks of the parliamentarians, even after the town and castle had been captured. In the evening, however, of that day, they had no other alternative but to surrender upon bare quarter.

Near this fortification stood a religious house called Cadogan Chapel, which, in the third year of Edward VI. passed into lay hands. In 1604 it was remaining, though in a ruinous state, having been appropriated in that year as the "Pest House."*

The precinct of this chapel probably extended as far as Millington's Hospital, the site of the latter being to this day called "The Chapel Yard," and in the gardens adjoining it skeletons have been found, while a strong yew-tree hedge, still visible at the western end of Cadogan Place, was no doubt its boundary in that direction, near which spot stood "*Cadogan's Cross*," where sermons in other days were occasionally delivered. The bailiffs' accounts, for 1542, record the item of sixpence for wine given to the Lord President's chaplain, preaching at Cadogan's Cross on the Rogation day.

The meadows below (on the banks of the Severn), called

* In 1604 a great plague began in Salop, on the 2d of June, and raged until April following, in which time 667 persons had died of it in the several parishes, and the streets were so little frequented as to be covered with grass. The two bailiffs died.—MS. Chronicle.

"*Monks Eye*," were granted by Reginald Pinzun to the "Almonry" of Shrewsbury Abbey, in the reign of Henry III. previously to which they had the appellation of "*Crosfurlong*."

Extending our walk for one mile on what was formerly the great Holyhead road (with the fine woods of Berwick on the opposite side of the river) we reach the township of SHELTON, where are some neat suburban villas which unite architectural taste and rural decoration with beauty of situation and commanding prospects. At this place stands

GLENDOWER'S OAK,

famed from the tradition that Owen Glendower, in 1403, ascended its branches to ascertain the event of the Battle of Shrewsbury.

There are documents to prove that this oak was "*a great tree*" within 140 years after that sanguinary contest, and was an object of remark to old people long before. It is now a chronicle to the eye of the passing traveller, and long may it be preserved from injury, and viewed as the natural historical monument of our vicinity.

The tree is 41½ feet in height; the girth at the base is 44¼ feet, and at eight feet from the ground 27¼ feet. The interior is hollow, consisting of little more than a shell of bark, forming an alcove capable of holding a dozen individuals; and notwithstanding the branches of this aged tree have borne the blast of half a millennium of storms, still, the spring season finds it no less fresh and vigorous than the bordering saplings.

THE ABBEY FOREGATE.

Passing over the English, or east bridge, from which there is a striking prospect of the town; on the right is Coleham, and on the left we reach a small tract of ground, comprising a few houses, called

MERIVALE,

or, *Murivale*, probably from its connexion with the walls.

In reference to this it appears that in the early part of the 13th century, the abbot consented that the two plats of ground between the main road at the east end of the bridge should be left void for the purpose of erecting defences in the time of war; hence Merivale subsequently became matter of frequent contest between the Corporation and the Abbey, as to the right of jurisdiction within it. This was not finally settled until the dissolution of the monastery, when Henry VIII. stating the "intimate affection" which he bears towards the town of Salop, and his desire "to do and shew favour to the bailiffs and burgesses," grants that they and their successors may for ever enjoy all the liberties, privileges, &c. within the limits of the Abbey Foregate, including the hamlet of Merivale, in as ample manner as they were enjoyed by the last abbot or his predecessors. In 1587 Queen Elizabeth by charter united this suburb to the town.

Leaving the National School to the right, at which point the Hereford line of railway will pass over the street.

THE MONASTIC REMAINS

next claim our notice, and although now very inconsiderable, yet, like most other Abbeys, they originally consisted chiefly

of two quadrangular courts of different dimensions, the conventual church, as was customary, being towards the north. Situated on the other sides were the refectory, almonry, chapter house, dormitory, locutory or parlour, infirmary, guest hall or hospititum, kitchen, and other domestic offices. The abbott's house or lodging commonly formed one or more portions of the smaller quadrangle, and consisted of a complete mansion.

This Abbey, bereft of its endowments by the reforming spirit of Henry VIII. shared the fate of other similar foundations in the rapine of the dissolution; the buildings connected therewith were sold, and soon afterwards despoiled of their constituent parts, chiefly for the value of the materials, while portions were converted into dwellings and other purposes, or left quietly to moulder into decay.

Of the remains which have excited most attention is an elegant octagonal

STONE PULPIT,

from which one of the junior monks was accustomed to read to his brethren while seated at their meals. Its situation, one half resting on the ruined wall of the Refectory, indisputably proves this; looking outward of the site of that building it forms a small bay window, while the other portion, once inside the hall, is supported on a moulded bracket, which springs from a corbel originally carved as a head. From hence it projects to the basement of the floor, twelve feet from which rises a conical roof sustained on six narrow pointed arches, having trefoil heads.

The interior forms a beautiful oriel, the roof being vaulted on eight delicate ribs, at the intersection of which

in the centre is a boss of comparatively large dimensions; on this is beautifully sculptured The Crucifixion, with St. John and the Virgin Mary at the foot of the cross, enclosed under a trefoil arch flanked by buttresses. The spaces of the three northern arches, looking inwards, are filled with embattled stone panels about three feet high, on which are enshrined several figures of saints, &c.

This interesting relic is approached from the garden by a flight of steps, through a small doorway worked originally, it is considered, within the thickness of the wall of the refectory.

The south wing of what is supposed to have been part

of the monk's infirmary, chapel, &c. remains south-west of the church. It is now appropriated as a malthouse, and may be distinguished by its lofty gables. A similar building formerly stood near the street, and was connected with the above by an embattled wall flanked by massive piers, between which were square windows divided by a transom. This was an imposing feature to our monastic remains, but was in part taken down in 1836.

The present Abbey house is supposed to have been the guest hall, or hospitium, to the east of which three pointed arches, once forming part of a groined ceiling, denote the abbot's lodging.

Of the chapter house, where the members of the monastery assembled to transact their official business, not a relic is left; but in excavating near its site, in 1836, a leaden seal was found, which had been once appended to a bull from the Pope, whose name is thus inscribed on it, INNOCENTIVS . PP. IIII.*

The dormitory was attached to the south-west side of the church, and was cut through in the formation of a new line of road in 1836. Within the Chapter House, which stood on a portion of this road, occurred the earliest authorized assembly of that popular representation in the constitution of this kingdom, to which, under Providence, Englishmen have been indebted for all their subsequent

* The monks of this Abbey, in the third year of Pope Innocent IV. i. e. 1246, obtained a bull, setting forth the injuries committed against their lands, tithes, possessions, &c. by the monastery of Lilleshall, by which the dean and precentor of Lichfield were directed to convoke the parties and hear the cause.

prosperity,—all their energies, and that noble independence which have characterized us as a people among nations. In this place also Richard II. gratified his fondness for magnificence, by entertaining the members of his parliament with a sumptuous feast, and, as if to dazzle by the splendour of monarchy, and to awe by military display, he was attired in his royal robes, and attended by a numerous guard of Cheshire men.

The fervent orisons of a grateful heart have here been uplifted—divinity and other important subjects discussed—and on this spot the nobility, gentry, abbots, priors, deans, &c. of Shropshire, have frequently congregated, and banished for a time the gloomy silence and sable garb of the brotherhood, and exchanged the sober gravity of the refectory, and its austere monkish repast, for wine and wassail, minstrelsy and song.

An ancient embattled wall until lately, encompassed the northern and eastern sides of the precinct, this has been removed, and iron palisading encloses a portion of the site on which the choir transepts, &c. stood; many fragments of these remained until within the last hundred years. The spot, afterwards used as a garden, was purchased in 1839, at a large cost by a company of subscribers, in shares of £50 each, in furtherance of the opinion, now become prevalent, of providing cemetries apart from the dense mass of the population. For this object an act of Parliament was obtained, and received the royal assent 19th June, 1840, under the title of a

GENERAL CEMETERY,

in the parish of Holy Cross and St. Giles. It compriscs

7300 square yards, and was consecrated Oct. 18th, 1841. Being formed on strictly ecclesiastical principles, the friends of the deceased may have the services of their own clergyman. The charge for the purchase of ground is moderate, and being held in *perpetuity*, gives that security to families which is not otherwise possessed, except by the rare and costly right of a faculty.

The cemetery has been judiciously planted, and will doubtless gather new charms as each successive spring-tide advances, Here too may possibly be realized the desire which seems rooted in the human mind, of allying the picturesque to the trophies of mortality, as love and friendship raise the fond memorial, and nature spreads her garlands, and folds o'er the mounds of death her green and tender mantle.

Beyond is the FORREGATE, a respectable open street, nearly one mile in length, and chiefly occupied by private residences. The houses to the south have gardens which extend to the Reabrook, and command delightful prospects of the adjacent country. This suburb (April 1st, 1774) suffered considerably from a fire, which destroyed 47 dwellings, 16 barns, 15 stables, 4 shops, and several stacks of hay, besides damaging other property.

On the left, half way up the street, is

THE WHITE HALL,

So called from a practice, during the last century, of occasionally colouring its deep red walls. Our native poet (Churchyard) speaks of this stone mansion in his usual quaint manner, as standing "so trim and finely that it graceth all the soil it is in." In front is a handsome gate.

house; and the pointed gables, central cupola, and ornamental chimnies, strongly characterize it as an interesting specimen of the old English residence peculiar to the reign of Elizabeth, while its sombre appearance is finely set forth by the vivid foliage of walnut and other trees adjoining. The interior has been modernised, and forms a comfortable habitation. The building was commenced in 1578 by

Richard Prince, Esq. a celebrated lawyer, and was his manorial residence. After his posterity had continued in the male line for three generations, it ended in a daughter, through whom, this Mansion devolved to the Earls of Tankerville, and was purchased from that family by the late Bishop Butler, and is now the residence of his youngest daughter.

A few yards distant, approached by a good road and footpath is

THE RACE GROUND,

called the "Soldier's Piece," from the circumstance of Charles I. having drawn up his army here. It may in most points compete with the first courses in the kingdom. It is one mile and 185 yards in circumference, and in addition to a fine straight run for coming-in of 600 yards, possesses the advantage of a sight of the horses throughout the race, combined with a panoramic view of the adjacent richly diversified country; while the town, from so many points picturesque, is from hence a pleasing and striking object.

The purchase of the land was completed in 1837, for £11,700, being raised in 468 shares of £25 each. The grand stand was designed by Mr. Carline, and erected at a cost of £2000. It is replete with every convenience suitable for the reception of rank and fashion. The elevation forms a chaste Italian design, having in front a lofty saloon 50 feet in length;—beneath and around are apartments appropriated as refreshment rooms, &c. and the summit commands a delightful prospect.

A footpath through the meadows near the Hall con-

ducts to the east end of Abbey-foregate, and the noble Column erected on the great London road in commemoration of the military achievements of the late Lord Hill, who, on his return to his native county, in 1814, was welcomed into Shrewsbury by his countrymen with all the splendid honours attendant upon a triumphal hero. The most enthusiastic rejoicings took place, and upwards of 20,000 persons assembled to witness the festivities, &c. provided on the occasion in the Quarry.

Leaving the venerable church of St. Giles to the left, and proceeding about one mile to the right, along a pleasant walk varied throughout by an interesting prospect, we reach the saline and chalybeate spring called

SUTTON SPA,

situated in a retired dell near the margin of the Rea-brook, and the property of Lord Berwick. The spring issues from a rocky stratum of ash-coloured clay, or argillaceous schistus. The water is colourless, and exhales a faint sulphureous smell, much more perceptible in rainy weather. It has been compared with the Cheltenham water, but in reality bears a stronger affinity to sea water, possessing, however, an advantage over that in containing iron. It has been found beneficial in the treatment of glandular affections, scrofula, and other diseases of the skin. A tumbler glassful operates as an aperient.

Eleven cubic inches of the water contain about half a cubic inch of carbonic acid, partly free and partly in a combined state, a quarter of a cubic inch of atmospheric air, and a trace of sulphuretted hydrogen.

Sixteen fluid ounces contain of—

Iodine and Bromine, each a trace
Carbonate iron, about 0.7 grain
——— lime and siliceous earth, each a trace
Anhydrous muriate magnesia, 8.8 grains
——————— lime, 30 grains
——————————— soda, 121.3 grains.

The importance of this spring is acknowledged, and it is entrusted to the care of a cottager on the spot. In an adjoining meadow stands the primitive parish church of Sutton, a small Anglo-Norman edifice. The town may be regained by walks which lead to Coleham.

THE SUBURB OF COLEHAM,

situated on the southern banks of the river, where the Meole or Rea brook joins the Severn. The Ludlow and Hereford Railway is in formation along its eastern side.

The township is populous, and consists of two districts, called Longden Coleham and Meole Coleham from their respective thoroughfares to those villages. In the latter direction is Trinity Church, and in the former the foundry of Mr. Hazledine, where the iron-work used in the construction of the "Menai Bridge" was cast.

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

Our town for more than three centuries possessed almost exclusively the trade with Wales in a coarse kind of cloth called Welsh webs, which were brought from Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire to a market held here weekly. In reference to this, Camden, in his "Britannia," published

in 1586, writes of Shrewsbury—"It is a fine city, well inhabited, and of good commerce; and by the industry of the citizens and their cloth manufacture and their trade with the Welsh, is very rich, for hither the Welsh commodities are brought as to the common mart."

This branch of commerce received a check about the year 1795, and was occasioned by individuals (not members of the Shrewsbury fraternity of drapers) travelling in those parts where the goods were made, and inducing the manufacturers to sell at home, without the inconvenience of a journey to the ancient market. In 1803, the Drapers abandoned the great room over the market-house, where they had long transacted their business, and though much traffic in flannels has been subsequently carried on in the town, its decline is apparent, from the market having settled at Welshpool and Newtown.

That Shrewsbury, however, may realize benefit from its central situation as a great thoroughfare into Wales, and being also the principal market of the surrounding country, acknowledged to be one of the finest agricultural districts in the kingdom;—it now possesses the advantage of Railway communication with Birmingham, London, Liverpool, Chester, Hereford, &c.; and as a great portion of the provisions which supply the thickly-populated neighbourhoods of Wolverhampton, Bilston, Birmingham, &c. are purchased at our markets, great benefit must result to the town by the disposal of produce and an increased traffic.

The chief manufactories are the extensive concern of Messrs. Marshall for thread and linen yarns, an iron foundry, breweries, and the lead works of Messrs. Burr. The vicinity

being a good barley country, the malting business is carried on to a considerable extent. Glass-staining has been brought to the highest state of perfection in this town, by Mr. D. Evans, of whose productions our churches and many other ecclesiastical buildings and noblemen's mansions in different parts of the kingdom afford specimens, contending in effect with some of the finest works of the ancient masters.

Among the *delicacies* for which our town is celebrated may be mentioned a most delicious CAKE,* to which the poet Shenstone thus alludes,—

> "For here each season do these cakes abide,
> Whose honoured names th' inventive city own,
> Rend'ring through Britain's isle Salopia's praises known."

SHREWSBURY CAKES appear to have been presented to distinguished personages on their visit to this town as early as the reign of Elizabeth; and when their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria arrived here in 1832, they were graciously pleased to accept a box of them from the Mayor.

THE SIMNEL made here is much admired, and great quantities of this kind of cake are prepared about the season of Christmas and Lent. The word is derived from the Latin *simila*, signifying fine flour; but the common tradition fixes its origin to a dispute between a man named "Simon" and his wife "Nell." One of them was desirous that the plum pudding should be baked, while the other insisted

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* "Why, brother Wilful of Salop, you may be as short as a SHREWSBURY CAKE, if you please."—Way of the World, 1735, by W. Congreve.

that it should be boiled: neither party being disposed to yield, it was therefore first boiled and afterwards baked (the processes it now undergoes), and thus produced Sim-nell. The exterior crust, or shell (enclosing a compound of fruit) is hard, and deeply tinged with saffron.

THE SHREWSBURY BRAWN is unrivalled, and annually patronised by Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Brawn is a Christmas dish of great antiquity, and may be found in most of the ancient bills of fare for coronations and other great feasts. "Brawn, mustard, and malmsey" were directed for breakfast during the reign of Elizabeth.

SHREWSBURY ALE has been commended from a remote period. *Iolo Goch*, the bard of Owen Glendower, eulogises the profusion with which "Cwrw Amwythig," or Shrewsbury Ale, was dispensed in the mansion of his hero at Sycarth, which he seems to have visited previously to the insurrection of 1400. In the last century the properties of this beverage were thus extolled:—

> "Hops, Water, and Barley, are here of the best,
> Your March and October can well stand the test;
> The body is plump, and the visage ne'er pale,
> That imbibes, or is painted, with *Shrewsbury Ale*."

MARKETS AND FAIRS.

The market days are Wednesdays and Saturdays. The former is small, but that on the latter day is well attended and abundantly supplied. In fact, few towns enjoy the advantage of a better or cheaper supply of meat, poultry, butter, vegetables, fruit, &c.

The space allotted for the sale of vegetables is in the spacious square opposite the County Hall, commonly called the "Green Market;" that for poultry, eggs, &c. on Pride Hill and in the Butter Cross. The shambles for butchers' meat is in a street called "the Double Butcher Row, Pride Hill; and in Fish-street, near St. Julian's church, are shambles for the country butchers. The corn mart is held under the old market house.

The fair for the sale of horses, cattle, and other animals, is held every second Tuesday; and that for butter and cheese monthly, on the Wednesday following the first cattle fair. The wool fairs are in July and August.

THE ENVIRONS OF SHREWSBURY

present an agreeable variety of pleasant drives and interesting walks, unfolding from most points some changing feature of landscape scenery, insulated, or grouped in picturesque masses, and interspersed with lofty hills, which afford an imposing back-ground to the town, producing a succession of rich and varied prospects calculated to interest the lover of nature, while the artist, the antiquary, the botanist, or the geologist, may find an ample field for the cultivation of their respective pursuits.

The limited plan of the present work will only admit of a very brief notice of some of those objects that might claim the attention of the enquiring stranger, or present themselves in the course of a drive.

BATTLEFIELD.

Three miles N.E. by N. Perhaps few events, so recent and of such importance in the annals of our country, have left so few local traditions to awaken the dream of ancient chivalry as the Battle of Shrewsbury.

The site of this momentous conflict for the crown of England is no longer unenclosed, but seems thriving with the culture of centuries of peace. Some armour and military weapons occasionally turned up remind us of the event, or, but for the church founded by Henry IV. in commemoration of his victory over Hotspur, Douglas, Worcester, and the rebel army, we might rejoice that the breath of tranquility has hushed the tale of death. The many associations, however, connected with this battle, are not easily banished from the mind while visiting a spot to which Shakspeare ha given vividness and immortality.

BATTLEFIELD CHURCH,

according to the original foundation consisted of five secular canons, and among other endowments possessed the churches of St. Michael within the Castle of Shrewsbury, and also St. Julian's, in the same town. The fabric, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, stands in the centre of a pasture field, and consists of a nave, chancel, and tower. The choral division from the style of the windows, was erected in the time of the founder, and the western portion under the auspices of Adam Grafton, Dean of the collegiate Church of St. Mary, Shrewsbury, Archdeacon of Salop, and warden of this college in 1504. Length of the church, including the tower, 94 feet.

The roof of the nave and chancel having fallen in from decay early in the last century, the latter was restored and supported by four doric pillars. In the south wall is a piscina and the sedilia for the officiating priests. In one of these is a curious wooden figure, called "Our Lady of Pity." It represents the Virgin seated and bearing on her knees a dead Christ. The eastern window contains some remains of the stained glass with which this church was once enriched. The crowned heads of Henry IV. and his Queen, the portraits of a bishop or abbot,and the head of John the Baptist in a charger, may yet be distinguished. At the east end of the north wall is a handsome florid gothic monument of free-stone to the memory of the late John Corbet, Esq. of Sundorne, who died in 1817. A tabernacled niche above the chancel window contains the crowned statue of Henry IV. the right hand once sustained a sword.

The college stood at the east end of the church, the moat which surrounded it being still visible. Near this part is a field called the "King's Croft," in which were

placed a portion of the royal army. The troops of Hotspur appear to have been chiefly stationed on the north side.

Two miles distant from hence is

THE VILLAGE OF HADNAL.

Beneath the tower of this church (a spot selected by himself) repose the remains of that renowned warrior and good man, ROWLAND FIRST VISCOUNT HILL, who died Dec. 10th, 1842, in his 71st year. Within the edifice a characteristically sculptured monument has been erected, whereon is recorded a faithful epitome of the gentleness and firmness,—humanity and heroism,—calmness and ardour of the SHROPSHIRE HERO, and also General-in-Chief, commanding the British forces for more than fourteen years.

HAUGHMOND ABBEY,

Three miles north-east of the town, is approached from the Old Heath, by a road full of picturesque beauty.

This monastery was founded in the year 1100, by William Fitz Alan, for canons regular of St. Augustine, and is situated on the side of a gentle eminence. The ruins form an imposing object, and are of sufficient consequence to attract attention. None of the Abbey church exists, except the door which opened into the cloister, this is an elegant specimen of Anglo-Norman architecture, having on each side two statues.

THE CHAPTER HOUSE is nearly entire: the front parallel with the cloister consists of triple arches decorated with a variety of ornaments. The entrance is through a circular arch, with a window in the same style on each side, divided into small lights. The shafts of these arches have

canopied niches containing mutilated statues; the angel Gabriel, St. Catharine, and St. John may yet be distinguished. The interior forms a long square, the roof is of oak, and divided into compartments.

THE ABBOT'S LODGING is in part standing, being beyond the cloister and refectory southward. There is likewise the shell of a noble hall, having early mullioned windows, and a very large one at the west end, the tracery of which is destroyed. The gable is flanked by two turrets. At the extremity of this was the great chamber, lighted by a beautiful bow window (probably a later addition), and divided into an upper and lower story.

On the north side of the Chapter House are two monumental stones: the largest indicates the death of John Fitz Alan, Lord of Clun, great-grandson of William, the founder of the monastery, and the least that of his wife Isabel, daughter of Roger Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore.

At the dissolution the buildings were sold, and converted into a spacious mansion.

South-east, clothed with masses of woody verdure, is

HAUGHMOND HILL,

its etymology is derived from *haut mont*, the high mount. An easy ascent from the Abbey leads to the summit, from whence is a rich panoramic prospect over a portion of the vale of Shropshire. A castellated turret is erected on a steep crag of the hill, down which the Scottish Earl Douglas leaped with his horse, on being closely pursued in escaping from the Battle of Shrewsbury, and received a severe injury. He was taken prisoner, but the king, respecting his valour, set him at liberty. At the foot of the hill is

THE VILLAGE OF UFFINGTON,

delightfully situated amidst rural scenery. Parties from the town are often tempted by the beauty of the situation to make this place a holiday retreat, whose enjoyment is enhanced by the accommodations of a good inn, attached to which, above the banks of the Severn, is a pleasant bowling green.

The church, overshaded by two venerable yews, possesses a primitive simplicity, quite in character with the village.

THE VILLAGE OF ALBRIGHTON,

3 miles N.E. on the Ellesmere road, a township and Saxon manor in the parish of St. Mary, Salop. The church rebuilt in 1840, is in the Norman style. The old mansion was long the residence of the family of Ireland.—A bridle road across a field leads to Albright Hussey and Battlefield. The former was the moated mansion of the Hussey's, Barker's and Corbett's. Here was a chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist, of which the only vestige is a ruined wall.

THE VILLAGE OF MEOLE,

otherwise Meole Brace, is one mile south of the town, in the liberties of which a portion of the parish is included. The church was erected on the site of a Norman edifice in the year 1800. It is a plain cruciform building.* From this place agreeable walks branch off in the direction of Kingsland, Sutton, and the Sharpstones. Near the latter place, at Bayston Hill, is an earthwork of irregular form, surrounded on all sides but the east by two fosses, the abrupt formation of the ground in that direction rendering such a protection unnecessary. The entrance was no doubt from

* Mr. Thomas Barker, author of a work on angling, was born at this village.

the Stretton road at the west. The *double* entrenchment admits a probability that it belonged to the Anglo-Saxons, but it is difficult to distinguish between their encampments and those of the Danes, both forming their camps nearly alike and on elevated spots. The site possesses every advantage for a military post of observation. The residents in the vicinity designate it the "Buries." At the hamlet of BAYSTON HILL in 1844, a new church was erected, as a chapelry to St. Julian's, Shrewsbury.*

THE VILLAGE OF ATCHAM,

Three miles and a half eastward, is delightfully seated on the banks of the Severn, over which there is a handsome bridge of seven arches. The etymology of the place is derived from *Eatta*, a Saxon saint to whom the church is dedicated. It was anciently called Ettingeham and Attingesham. In the Saxon period it belonged to the college of St. Alkmund, Shrewsbury; and when that church was annexed to Lilleshull Abbey, the advowson of Atcham made part of the transfer. The church consists of a tower and nave; and contains monuments to the family of Burton, of Longner, removed hither on the fall of St. Chad's church, Salop.†

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* Two miles beyond is CONDOVER. The church is spacious and shows remains of Norman architecture; also handsome monuments (from Old St. Chad's), to the ancient family of Owen. The Hall is a fine building, erected by Sir Thomas Owen, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, who died 1598.

† Longner, the ancient seat of the Burtons, is one mile N. W. of this village, and forms part of the parish of St. Chad. In 1558 it

This village was the birth-place of Ordericus, the earliest Salopian historian. He was the son of Odelerius Constantitus, of Orleans, a chief councillor to Roger de Montgomery, born (as he informs us) Feb. 16th, 1075, "and on Easter Sunday following was baptised by Ordericus the priest at Ettingesham, in the church of St. Eatta the Confessor," and received the rudiments of his education under Siward the priest, in the little church of St. Peter, Shrewsbury, on the site of which the stately Benedictine Abbey was afterwards built. Ordericus's great work is entitled an "Ecclesiastical History," but is more properly a record of the events of his own time.

Continuing our course for half a mile we pass over TERN BRIDGE, below which the river Tern falls into the Severn. On the left is ATTINGHAM HALL, the elegant mansion of Lord Berwick. Half a mile beyond is

WROXETER.

This village was the metropolis of the *Cornavii*, a tribe of Britons settled in Shropshire and some of the adjoining counties at the period when Julius Cæsar first invaded this island, On the subjugation of the Britons this place became the flourishing Roman station of Uriconium,—Wriconium, synonymous with the adjoining Wrekin,—subsequently Wrekincester, and by contraction Wroxeter.

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was the residence of Edward Burton, Esq. a zealous protestant, who expired suddenly with joy on hearing of the accession of Queen Elizabeth. His body was refused interment in the church of St. Chad by the popish priest, owing to some stipulations made either in his will, or by the zeal of his surviving friends, that the popish service should not be celebrated over his remains, which were in consequence buried in his own garden, over which a tomb is erected, with a quaint poetical inscription.

It is situated on a gentle eminence above the Severn, possessing those advantages which the Romans generally kept in view, viz. dryness of soil, extensive prospect, and the protection of a river. From the almost impenetrable obscurity in which its early history is involved, no adequate idea can now be formed of the pristine state of this interesting place, which was defended by a wall and ditch, the boundaries are still to be traced throughout a circumference of three miles.

When the Romans quitted Britain about the middle of the fifth century, the Britons continued to occupy this place, from which they were ejected by the superior force of the Saxons sometime in the following century, and retreated to Caer Pengwern, now the capital of Shropshire; to which place they were soon followed by the unsparing Saxons, and compelled to seek another refuge in the mountain fastnesses of Wales.

There can be no doubt but the fall of Wroxeter was, as Leland asserts, "the cause of the erection of Shrewsbury;" and from the blackness of the soil in some parts its destruction seems to have been by fire; many of the coins also, and other remains discovered here, exhibit marks of their having been subjected to that element.

Wroxeter will be regarded by the antiquary with curious attention, as affording matter of much investigation: indeed it is impossible to look upon its fruitful fields,—once covered with a flourishing Roman town,—now presenting only the ruined remnant of a wall, without sensibly feeling the instability of human greatness.

The wall is about 70 feet long and 28 feet high, and composed of layers of rough stones and large flat tiles at alternate distances. It is arched, and the interior thickness formed with rubble and small pebbles thrown in with the cement or mortar, which is become as hard as stone. This venerable relic is thought to have been a portion of the fortification of the town. Other conjectures are, that it was connected with the Prætorium, or formed part of a bath, which was discovered near it; but after a lapse probably of more than 1600 years, and where evidence is wanting, its original purpose must remain in uncertainty.

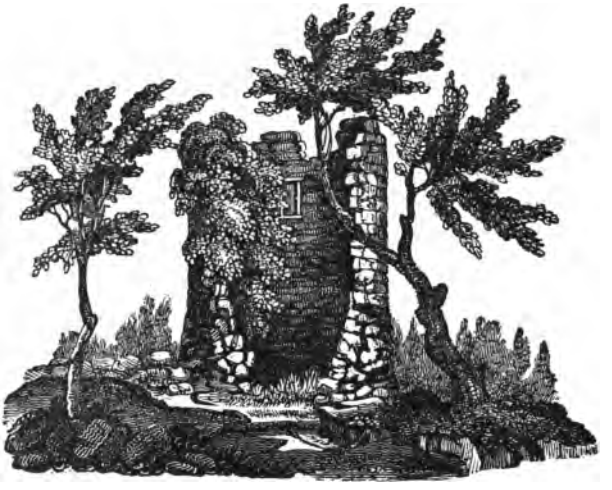
Tesselated pavements, altars, sepulchral stones, with inscriptions, urns, skeletons in deep graves and encased in red clay, several moulds for coining money, seals of different kinds, an Apollo (four inches in length) elegantly cast in lead, with other figures, and many curious and interesting remains of Roman manufacture, have been discovered whilst excavating on this site. Great quantities of copper coins, and many of gold and silver, are constantly turned up by the plough. The copper coins are chiefly of the lower empire.

The town was situated on the line of the Watling Street road, in the direction towards Stretton. In the ford across the Severn the foundations of a bridge may be discerned at low water.

The church, on the accession of Henry II. was granted to the canons of Haghmond Abbey, and displays specimens of architecture from the earliest Anglo-Norman to that of the last century. It consists of a nave, tower, and chancel; in the latter is a curious doorway, and the former seems to have had originally a south aisle. Within are several altar tombs with cumbent effigies.

HAWKSTONE,

is 14 miles from Shrewsbury. The scenery in the park is grand, and the objects which meet the eye varied and interesting, consisting of a succession of hills and dales rocks and caverns, connected together in a comparatively small space. Among these on a high rock stands the ruins of "Red Castle," formerly a



strong-hold of Barons bold, and feudal power. The walks are 12 miles in circuit, and the Obelisk erected on the terrace of the park commands a prospect one hundred miles in diameter. The noble proprietor Viscount Hill, Lord Lieutenant of the County, kindly permits visitors to gratify themselves with a walk through this elysian spot.

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